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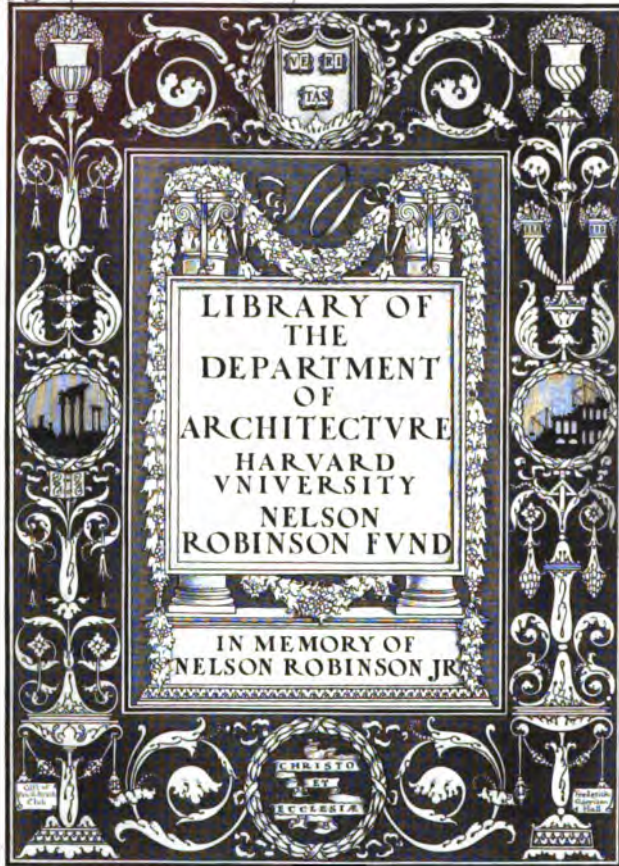
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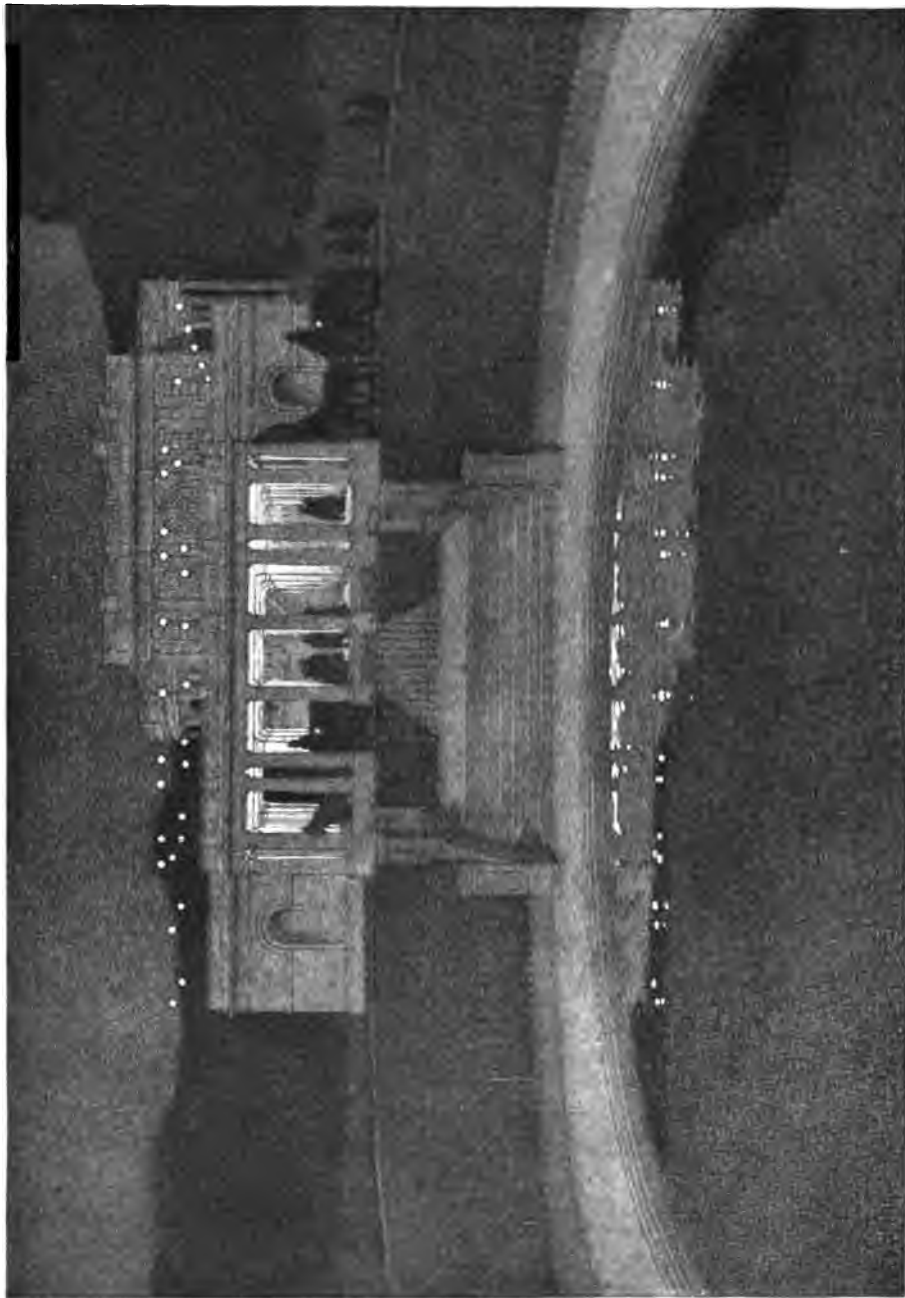
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THE PORTE-COCHÈRE AND EAST TERRACE. From a drawing by Jules Guérin. Reproduced by permission of The Century Company, owners of the copyright.

U S Congress.

57TH CONGRESS, }
2d Session. }

SENATE.

{ DOCUMENT
No. 197.

RESTORATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES TRANSMITTING THE
REPORT OF THE ARCHITECTS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1903.

FEBRUARY 28, 1903.—Read; referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds and ordered to be printed.

FRANCIS LEROY MURPHY

CONSERVATION UNIT

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NOTE.—The drawings by Jules Guerin and Alfred Brennan, which appear in the text, were loaned by The Century Company. They are reproduced here because they give the architectural values more accurately than photographs can.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith for the information of the Congress a report by the architects, with accompanying pictures, regarding the work of repairing and refurnishing the White House and the erection of the Executive office building.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WHITE HOUSE, *February 28, 1903.*

RESTORATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

REPORT OF MESSRS. McKIM, MEAD & WHITE,
ARCHITECTS.

160 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK, *February 25, 1903.*

SIR: The sundry civil appropriation act, approved June 20, 1902, contained, among other provisions, the following paragraphs:

For a building to accommodate the offices of the President, to be located in the grounds of the Executive Mansion, and for each and every purpose connected therewith, including heating apparatus and light, fixtures, furniture, and removal of greenhouses, all to be done according to plans the details of which shall be approved by the President and completed in every respect within the sum hereby appropriated, \$65,196, to be expended by contract or otherwise, in the discretion of the President, and to be immediately available; and said building shall be constructed with sufficient foundation and walls suitable for a durable, permanent building, and of sufficient strength for an additional story when needed.

For extraordinary repairs and refurnishing of the Executive Mansion and for each and every purpose connected therewith, including all necessary alterations and additions, cabinetwork, decoration of rooms, covered ways and approaches, grading, paving, porte-cochère, gates, and electric wiring and light fixtures for house and grounds, all to be done according to plans, the details of which shall be approved by the President, and completed within every detail within the sum hereby appropriated, \$475,445, to be immediately available, and to be expended by contract or otherwise, in the discretion of and under the direction of the President.

It was not without many misgivings that we accepted at your hands the task of restoring the White House. It was not possible to ascertain accurately the amount of work to be done and repairs to be made without a more thorough

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examination than was possible, the house being in occupation at the time. The condition of the heating, plumbing, and electric systems were questions more or less of speculation, and the result showed that unexpected items of large expense were encountered.

Again, the time within which the White House must be completed and made ready for reoccupation was only four months, with an extension of two months for certain portions of the building; and in these four months it was necessary to secure the successful cooperation of many different trades.

It was only after having obtained from the firm of Norcross Brothers Company, general contractors, the assurance that they were willing to guarantee the completion of their part of the work within the time specified by you, that we were emboldened to undertake to solve as best we might the problems connected with the rehabilitation of the White House as the residence of the President of the United States.

These problems may be stated briefly as follows:

First. To make the White House structurally sound.

Second. To relieve the White House of the Executive offices, which had so encroached upon the space as to diminish the residence portions of the house to an unreasonable and abnormal extent.

Third. To make a rearrangement of the White House space so as to permit the comfortable and dignified entertainment of such number of guests as a house of that size might reasonably be called upon to accommodate. This was perhaps the most imperative as well as the most perplexing problem. The perils to health, and even to life itself, of the exposure of large numbers of people on the unsheltered north portico during occasions of public receptions, the use of a window exit, the enforced giving up of a considerable portion of the main floor to dressing rooms—all these things had combined to bring about a strong demand for some change for the better.

Fourth. To provide the White House with a state dining room of dimensions sufficient to enable the President to entertain at table on occasion about one hundred guests.

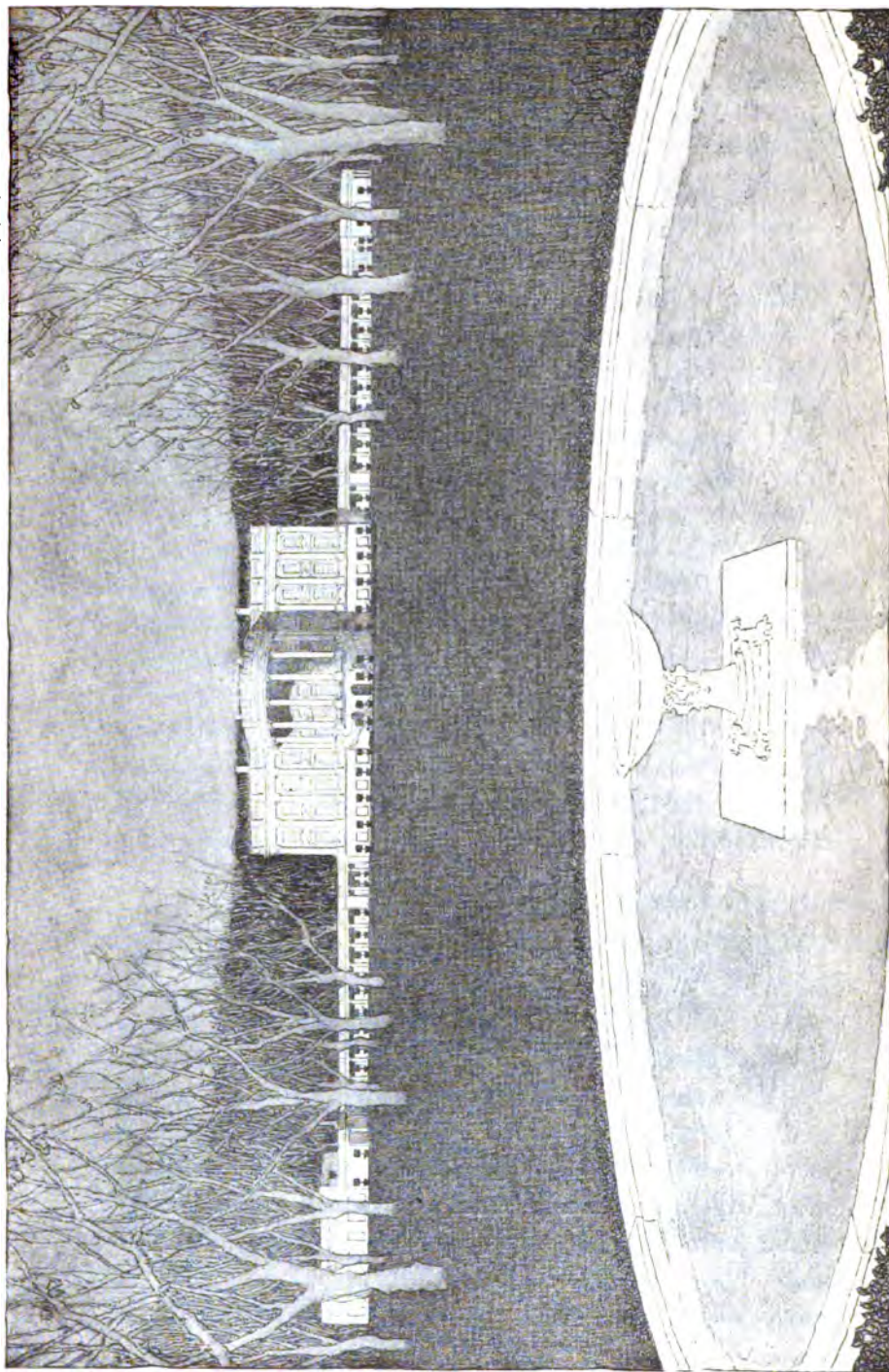
Fifth. To remove such excrescences as had been allowed to accumulate about the White House to the detriment of its fine architectural features and its dignity as the home of the President of the United States.

Recognizing the feeling prevalent among the people, you stipulated that none of the essential features of the White House should be sacrificed in the restoration; that the nation's historic house should be left intact, and that even the state rooms should continue to be known by the names made familiar by long usage. These limitations—if limitations they can be called—were welcomed; because among no class of the people was the feeling for the historic White House stronger than among the members of the profession of architecture. The first aim, therefore, was to discover the design and intention of the original builders, and to adhere strictly thereto in so far as the public or state portions of the house were concerned; and then to make the apartments reserved for private or family uses comfortable, according to modern requirements and standards.

TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE OFFICES.

Obviously the first step was to find some place other than the White House for the Executive offices. Every suggestion for the location of a permanent office building was open to some objection that seemed insuperable. No location outside the White House grounds could be decided upon and secured in the short time available. To construct within those grounds a building sufficiently large and imposing to stand as permanent offices would be to detract from the White House itself so seriously as to be absolutely out of the question. The one possible solution, therefore, was to occupy the only available space with a temporary building, which should

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THE WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH FRONT. From a drawing by Jules Guérin. Reproduced by permission of The Century Company, owners of the copyright.

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be comfortable within and inconspicuous in appearance, leaving Congress at its leisure to take up seriously the question of a permanent, adequate, and thoroughly dignified office for the Chief Executive.

The statement made to Congress when the appropriation came before the Senate was as follows:

The problem of the location of a permanent building for the offices of the President involves many considerations as to the amount of accommodation needed and the scope and variety of the functions to be carried on in such a building. Provision for temporary quarters for the executive offices is comparatively a simple matter. A building of brick, one story high, and containing from 50 to 75 per cent more room than the offices now occupy, can be constructed in the grounds of the White House opposite the entrance to the Navy Department. The building would take the place now occupied by a brick wall which screens a number of hot-houses and forcing beds for plants, functions which may well be provided for elsewhere, in connection with the propagating gardens.

The temporary building would include:

1. A Cabinet room.
2. President's office and retiring room.
3. Offices for two secretaries.
4. A telegraph and telephone room.
5. A large room for the stenographers.
6. A room for the press.
7. A main hall to be fitted as a reception room.
8. File rooms and closets in the basement.

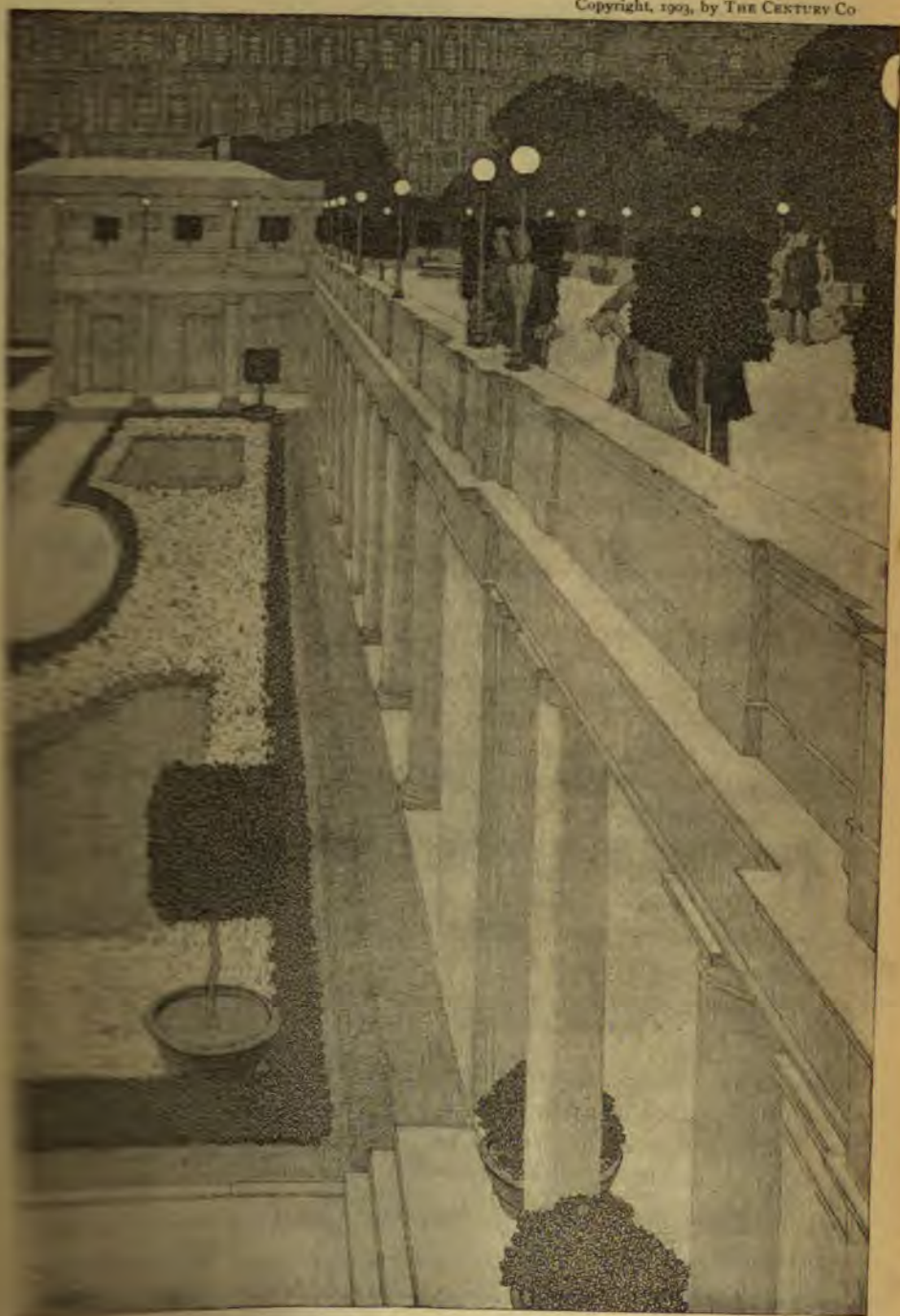
The cost of the temporary building, including heating appara-

tus, would be	\$33,000
Electric-light fixtures	2,196
Furniture	10,000
Removal of greenhouses.....	10,000

Total	55,196
-------------	--------

NOTE.—Mr. Cortelyou reports that with the exception of the historic Cabinet table and perhaps two or three chairs, none of the furniture in the present Executive offices is suitable for removal.

Congress stipulated that the walls should be sufficient to carry a second story, and increased the appropriation by \$10,000 for this purpose. Accordingly the walls were



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THE RESTORATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE. 13

strengthened to meet this requirement. It is to be hoped, however, that no increase in height will be permitted, because of the injury that would result to the White House.

Of the total amount available, \$6,000 was assigned to the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds for inspection and for the removal of the greenhouses. The cost of the building alone was \$45,126.75, and \$14,054.77 was expended on furniture, carpets, rugs, electric lighting and other fixtures. The work began on the approval of the sundry civil act, June 20, 1902, and the building was completed on the 29th day of the following September, although it was not occupied until about the middle of October, the postponement being made for the purpose of securing perfect drying.

GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

The appropriations for the restoration of the White House were based on the following summary of conditions and propositions for betterment, as submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of Congress:

The preliminary examination of the White House shows that the portion devoted to the President's offices is in an unsafe condition and that radical steps should be taken to relieve the beams from the weight they have carried too many years. Also, that in order to put the house into shape for occupancy under modern requirements, bathrooms, etc., must be provided in the various suites of chambers. The original house was built simply, and was well built, considering the limited amount of money then available for public buildings in Washington; but the changes that have been made from time to time have resulted in a medley of styles, none of which is of a permanent character.

It is useless to expect to secure a harmonious structure by doing over any one portion of the house. If the work is to be done at all, the entire house should be treated as a single problem; and while some of the rooms require very little attention, the public rooms must be made over. For example, it would not be possible to restore the corridor, East Room, and State Dining Room without at the same time restoring the connecting rooms.

The preliminary survey contemplated merely putting the house in order and making it safe. There was no consideration given at that time to

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more ample provision for large dinners and for accommodations for the large public receptions. A study of the historic White House, however, and the discovery in the Library of Congress of old prints and plans of the house, shows that by a return to the original design the White House can be put into such a condition that it will serve every use intended for many years to come, and that the increased demands for room in the house can be met in a dignified and satisfactory manner at a cost which is small when compared with the cost either of a new residence or of additions to the present building, both of which projects are objectionable from many points of view.

The original plans for the White House show porticoes on the west and on the east, extending 150 feet from the main building. These porticoes contained servant quarters, the laundry, storerooms, and house offices generally. The western portico remains, and forms a foundation for the present conservatory. These porticoes are at the garden level on the south, while on the north the roofs reach only to the level of the driveway. Unfortunately the space south of the western portico has been filled by glass houses for plants, and much of the room in the portico has been used for potting plants and like work. Architecturally this portico is finely constructed, with a row of dignified stone columns supporting the roof. The vaulting and general construction show that the portico was considered an integral portion of the house, and by reason of having a southern exposure the rooms therein are very desirable.

The restoration of the west portico to its original uses and the replacing of the east portico will relieve the main building of a number of the domestic offices and make available for public purposes more than half of the garden floor (now known as the basement). On occasions of large receptions carriages would enter the grounds at a point near the fountain, opposite the west front of the Treasury building. Alighting under a porte-cochère, the people, protected from the weather, would walk under an arcade to the house proper. Entering at the doors under the East Room, they would find ample dressing rooms at the right and left.

After the removal of the pipes which are now hung from the ceiling the corridor would be both ample in size and dignified in appearance. From this corridor a stone stairway 15 feet wide would lead to the main floor, which would all be available for receptions. The elimination of exposure on the front portico and the doing away with the undignified crush occasioned by turning the main hall into a dressing room on reception occasions are the advantages to be gained by the change.

On leaving a reception 500 people could be sheltered under the east portico while waiting for their carriages, and the porte-cochère would be

THE RESTORATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE. 15

sufficient to allow the approach of three carriages at a time. In this connection it may be noted that a separate entrance and separate dressing rooms under the Blue Room are provided for special guests, thus avoiding confusion on occasions of ceremony.

The elimination of the Executive offices from the White House gives an opportunity to rearrange the house as a residence for the President. The President retains a room in which he would see callers at hours when he is not in his office. The main hall becomes a spacious and dignified reception room. The East Room is to be rebuilt, the floors made safe, and a new plan of decoration adopted. By the removal of the present private staircase the State Dining Room will be enlarged by about 60 per cent of its present size, and the problem of giving large dinners will be solved for a number of years to come.

The principles on which the restoration would be done are these:

To put the house in the condition originally planned but never fully carried out.

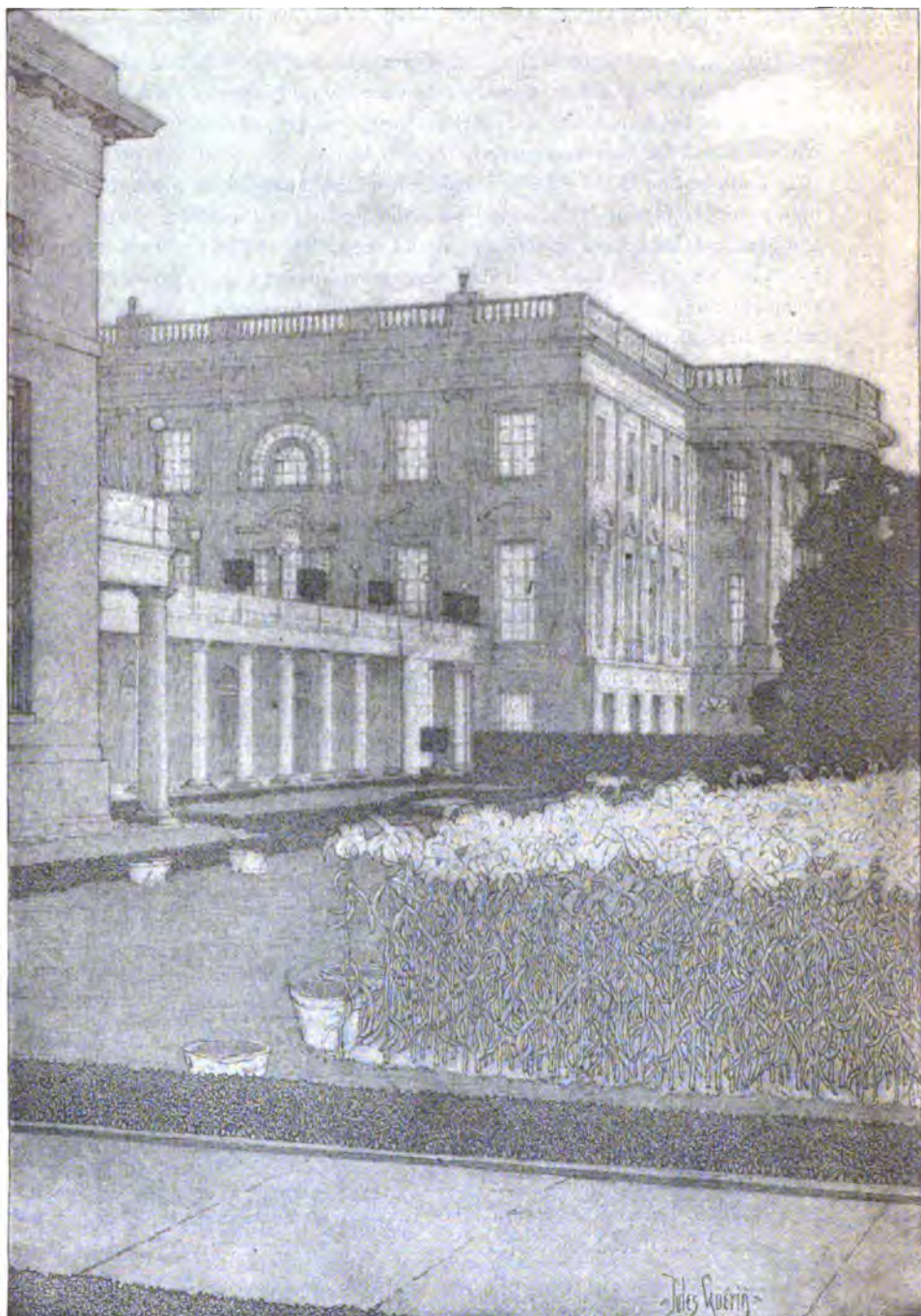
To make the changes in such manner that the house will never again have to be altered; that is to say, the work should represent the period to which the house belongs architecturally, and therefore be independent of changing fashion.

To modernize the house in so far as the living rooms are concerned and provide all those conveniences which now are lacking.

Provided work begins on June 12, the living portions of the house and the office building can be ready for occupancy October 1 and the remaining portions of the house can be ready by December 1. This can be guaranteed.

COST OF RESTORATION.

Estimated upset cost of alterations and additions, necessary to complete the exterior and interior of the White House (main building), exclusive of the finish of the subjoined rooms	\$143, 000
Upset cost of cabinet work and decoration of rooms above referred to, viz, hall, family dining room, State Dining Room, Red Room, Blue Room, Green Room, and East Room	60, 500
Restoration of west wing (alterations and additions)	22, 550
Restoration of east wing (new), complete	77, 000
Public entrance and approaches, gates, porte-cochère, and grating, as indicated on plans	22, 000
Electric-light fixtures for house and grounds (memorandum attached)	18, 895
Total	343, 945



THE WEST TERRACE. From a drawing by Jules Guérin. Reproduced by permission of The Century Company, owners of the copyright.

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To this estimate Congress added \$131,500 for furnishings, making the total appropriation available for the restoration of the White House \$475,445.

STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

On making as careful an examination of the White House as was possible while the house was occupied, it was found that the entire lower floor was used for house service. The principal rooms at the northeast corner were occupied by the laundry; the central rooms on either side of the main corridor were used for the heating and mechanical plants; the kitchens occupied the northwest corner; and much of the remainder of this floor was occupied by storerooms and servants' bedrooms.

Of the floors of the first story those under the main hall, the private dining room, and pantry, were found to be in good condition. The floor under the central portion of the East Room showed marked settlement, due to over-loading and to hanging heating coils to the ceiling underneath. The base of the room gave evidence of the settlement of the floor, and the same was true in the Green and the Blue rooms. The floor of the State Dining Room, while not showing settlement, was so insufficiently supported as to cause the dishes on the sideboards to rattle when the waiters were serving, and the plastering below was badly cracked from excessive vibration.

At large receptions, when potted plants were brought in from the greenhouses, and when the house was filled with people, it was the custom to put shores under the floors of the East Room, the State Dining Room, and the main hall at both ends for safety.

The fine, groined arches of the basement had been cut into in all directions to accommodate heating and plumbing pipes. These old vaulted ceilings are of brick and stone.^a

^a In many places, where the plaster was removed, evidences of the fire of 1814 were plainly visible. Also cut into the stonework were found many names, evidently of workmen employed on the construction.

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The heating chamber, which contained the coils of the heating apparatus, had been built into the main corridor. The fresh-air duct and the heat mains were suspended from the corridor ceiling, the masonry arches having been cut away in consequence. The whole ground floor was in bad condition; there was about it a general air of dilapidation, and the wood-work particularly was out of repair.

There was scarcely a room in the house in which the plaster was in good condition. In a number of instances as many as five layers of paper were found, and when the paper was removed the plaster came also.

The second floor showed such a degree of settlement as to make an entire new floor necessary. The floors of the rooms heretofore devoted to the offices, also the library, were so insufficient that steel beams were required.

The enlargement of the State Dining Room by the removal of the north wall of the room which wall carried the floor beams of the upper stories, made it necessary to build a heavy steel truss in the attic, from which the second floor is suspended.

The attic, occupied by servants, was reached only by the elevator. It is true that from the attic there was a narrow winding stairway leading to a mezzanine floor adjacent to the elevator; and from this mezzanine floor a swinging iron ladder let down from a trapdoor directly in front of the elevator—a most dangerous arrangement in case of fire.

The roof drainage had been carried through the roof, and thence on top of the attic floor to central points, descending to the ground through the house itself. The conductors were troughs hollowed out of logs. These troughs have been replaced with wrought-iron pipes, carried down along the external walls. The roof itself, which, under a fresh coat of paint, appeared in good condition, was found to be in such bad shape as to require almost entire renewal.

At first it was thought that the old heating apparatus could remain, at least in large part. Upon further examination,

however, it was found that only by the removal of all the duct work and heating coils, which were suspended from the ceilings throughout the ground floor, could this floor be made available for any uses other than those of service. The removal of ducts, etc., involved lowering the boiler and placing all pipes and ducts in trenches under the floor. The change necessitated a large unexpected expenditure, but in return the finely proportioned room under the Blue Room has become a reception room for guests of honor, and ample dressing-room accommodations not only for these guests but for all the guests at public receptions have been added.

The electric wiring was not only old, defective, and obsolete, but actually dangerous, as in many places beams and studding were found charred for a considerable distance about the wires where the insulation had completely worn off. Where wires have been carried through wood joists a porcelain insulating tube is usually placed through the beam and the wire threaded through that, but in the White House, in very many cases, the only protection was the insulation on the wire itself, and that had been worn off by contact with the rough timber. The entire wiring system is now in accordance with the very best modern practice, all wires being run inside wrought-iron pipes, so that if at any future time the wires should be burnt out or in any way damaged they can be withdrawn and new ones put in without causing the slightest damage. New cables and conduits were also carried across the street to the State, War and Navy Building. These were not contemplated; and there was no appropriation for work beyond grounds. This was a very costly item. Not only was one new conduit put in, but the old one was repaired and practically made new, leakage having caused the breaking down of the original cables running through it.

A new standpipe with fire hose has been provided, running from the ground floor to the attic and carried outside the house to a point which is accessible to the city fire department, so that

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in case of fire the attic of the house has the same protection as a modern office building.

The old filter, though of good type, was too small, and has been replaced by one of much greater capacity. The old filter has been placed in the office building.

Trees for the East and West terraces have been purchased by contract and will be in place not later than May first.

In short, it was necessary to reconstruct the interior of the White House from basement to attic, in order to secure comfort, safety, and necessary sanitary conditions. A fair idea of the extent to which it was necessary to carry the work of reconstruction may be seen by reference to the plates accompanying this report.

THE GROUND FLOOR.

The East and West terraces are first found on a plan drawn by Latrobe in 1807.^a The West Terrace had degenerated into workshops connected with the numerous greenhouses that had been constructed from time to time in such manner as not only to take away from it light and air, but entirely to conceal it. The East Terrace was removed some time prior to 1870. This terrace has been rebuilt in a substantial manner, with the addition of a porte-cochère opposite the Treasury Department. In excavating for the new terrace wing the foundations of the old one were discovered. A semicircular drive leads to this new entrance, which now is used on all occasions of large entertainments. The porte-cochère, which is glassed-in during the winter, is flanked by watchmen's quarters, thus doing away with the small wooden pavilion in the grounds. The East Terrace is occupied by coatrooms containing boxes for 2,500 wraps, umbrella stands, and other conveniences, thus doing away with the necessity of pressing into service as cloakrooms the main hall and the State and Private dining rooms.

In the house proper, more than one-half of the lower floor is

^aSee plates illustrating the history of the White House.

given up to dressing rooms, with toilet rooms attached, conveniences heretofore entirely lacking. The removal of the pipes from the corridor gives a spacious passageway, dignified by the fine architectural features constructed by Hoban. Decorated with portraits and plants, and furnished with sofas and large chairs, this corridor is made comfortable for those who wish to wait for an opportunity to enter the line formed for the receptions.

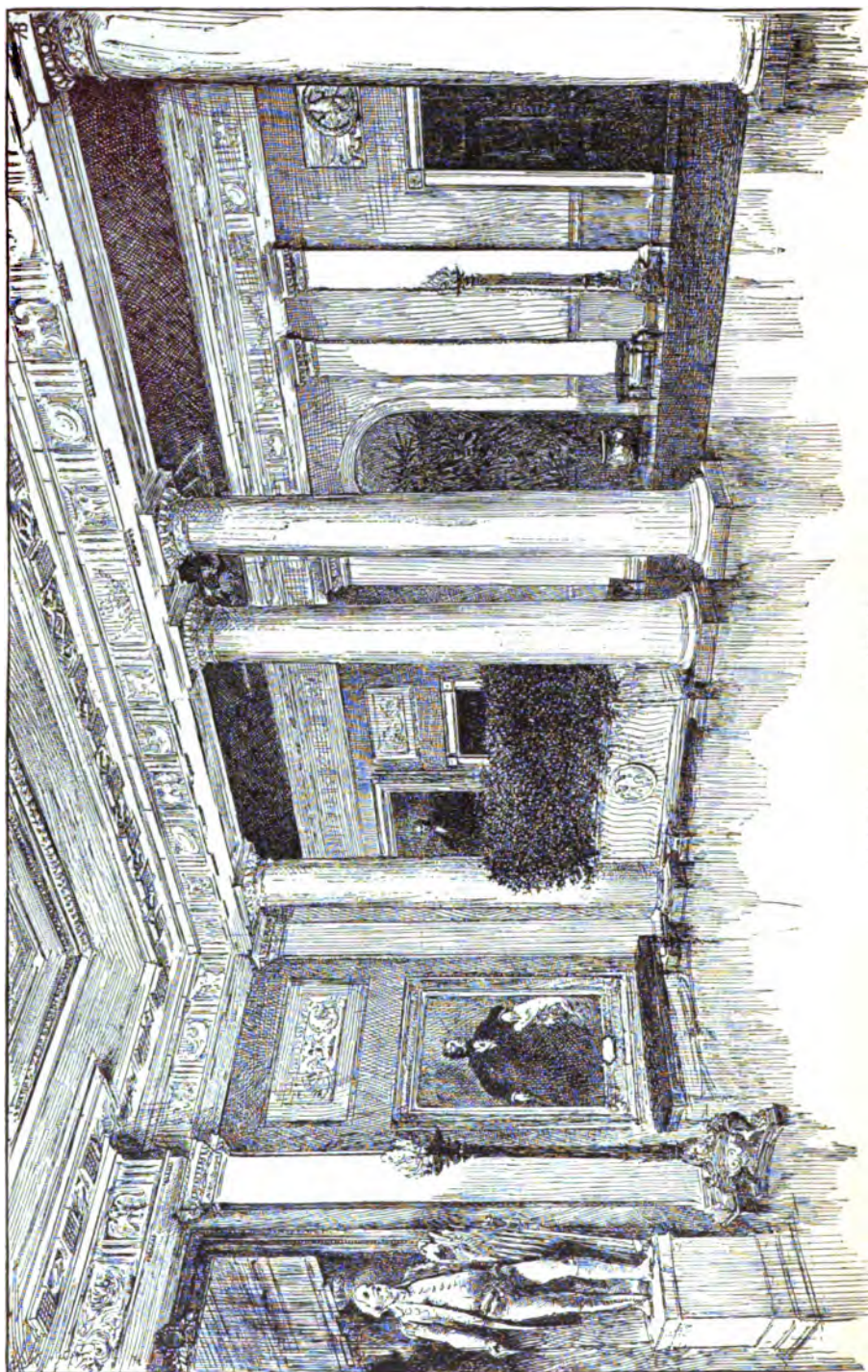
A stone floor has been laid, and a broad and easy flight of stone stairs leads to the main floor of the house. The kitchens have not been changed materially, but a new refrigerating room and many other conveniences have been added.

The West Terrace wing now accommodates the laundry and ironing rooms, the maids' dining room, and separate quarters for men and women servants, with ample toilet arrangements of the most approved pattern.

The removal of the greenhouses, besides adding materially to the healthfulness of the White House, has restored to the south front of the building that sense of dignity of which during the past forty years it had been deprived by the various encroachments. The fine colonnades on the south fronts of the terraces, now restored, once more give to the White House the long base from which the main structure rises with great architectural effect.

THE MAIN FLOOR.

The main floor is devoted to what may be termed the state apartments, as opposed to the rooms given over to the family life of the President's household. The only family room on this floor is the Private Dining Room, and even to this the public has access on formal occasions. Every room on this floor has been completely remade and refurnished.



THE HALL. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

THE HALL.

The floor and the base of the wainscot of the main hall and corridor are of Joliet stone, the floor being waxed. The walls and ceiling have been replastered and redecorated, the colors being buff and white. Six columns take the place formerly occupied by the colored glass screen. Two large tubs of Istrian stone, filled with plants, fill the spaces between the columns on either side of the central opening. Two mirrors reaching from the floor to the ceiling occupy portions of the east and west wall space; and it is suggested that as soon as may be practicable replicas of Houdin's statue of Washington, at Richmond, and of Saint Gaudens's statue of Lincoln, at Chicago, be placed in front of these mirrors. The general effect of such treatment is shown in the accompanying plates.

Bronze standards carrying clusters of electric lights, and a bronze lantern, furnish the light for this room; and a bronze and glass vestibule offers protection to the ushers at the least expense of light. The curtains, and the rug, 70 feet in length, which carpets the corridor from the doors of the State Dining Room to those of the East Room, are deep crimson in color.

Directly beneath the lantern, the President's seal appears in yellow bronze inlaid in the stone floor, and the pavement between the central columns carries in bronze the dates 1792-1902, inscribed in an ellipse of forty-five stars.

THE RED ROOM.

The changes made in the State Dining Room necessitated the removal of the two marble mantels that are contemporary with the house itself. Exquisitely carved in London and imported with others purchased for the Capitol, these mantels were almost the only historic furnishings in the White House at the time when the restoration began. Too small for the spaces where they were placed, they now become the chief ornaments of the Red and the Green rooms, respectively. The wainscoting of the Red Room is in white enamel and



there is a new cornice. The wall covering and the curtains are of red velvet, and the furniture is upholstered in red damask.^a There is a crystal chandelier and side lights; new andirons, a new mirror between the windows, and an antique rug.

THE BLUE ROOM.

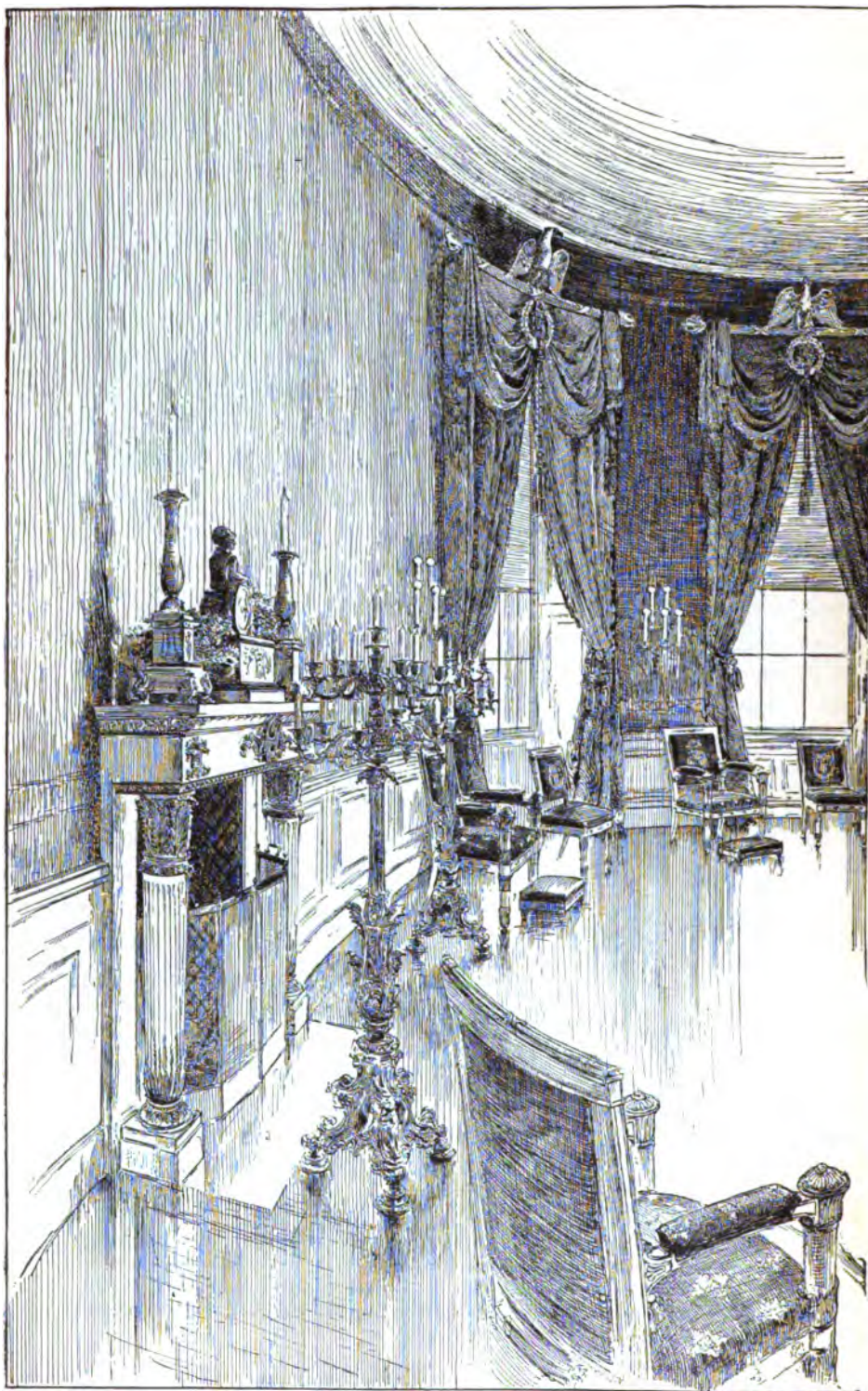
Rarely beautiful in its proportions, the Blue Room has been made notable by the events that have taken place within its walls; and in the changes particular emphasis has been placed on this room. The mantel is of pure white marble, the shelf being supported on bundles of arrows carved in white marble with bronze tips and feathers; the wainscoting is in white enamel; the wall covering is of heavy, corded blue silk, on which is embroidered at top and bottom the Grecian fret; the curtain hangings, of the same material as the wall covering, are embroidered with stars, and the curtain poles are surmounted by gilt eagles. The Grecian fret appears also in the ceiling. The furniture is in white and gold, upholstered in blue and gold.

Blind doors have been cut in the walls near the southern end of the room, and at receptions the guests coming from the Red Room pass the receiving party standing in a single line directly in front of the windows. The guests especially invited to share the Blue Room with the receiving party now face the President instead of being at his back as formerly, and a silken cord stretched across the room from door to door insures freedom of passage for the guests while being presented.

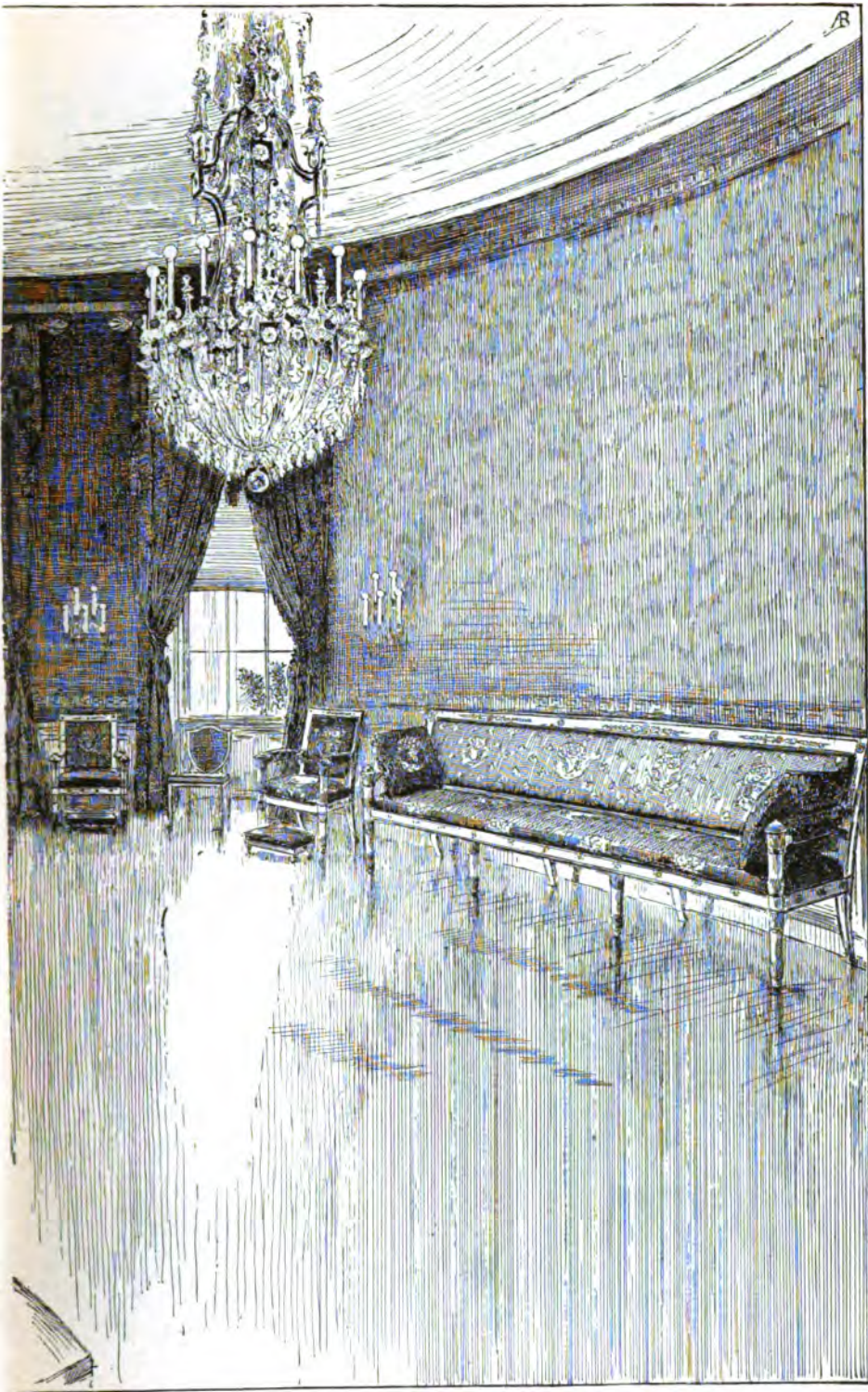
THE GREEN ROOM.

The wall covering and curtains of green velvet are copied from an old piece of Genoese velvet; the marble console table shares with the mantel the distinction of age and grace; the furniture—upholstered in tapestry—the rug, the mirror, the andirons, the crystal chandelier and side lights, all are new.

^a A cabinet, console table, and two small tables of mahogany are the gift of the manufacturers, Messrs. Retting & Sweet, of Grand Rapids, Michigan.



THE RED ROOM. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.



THE RED ROOM. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

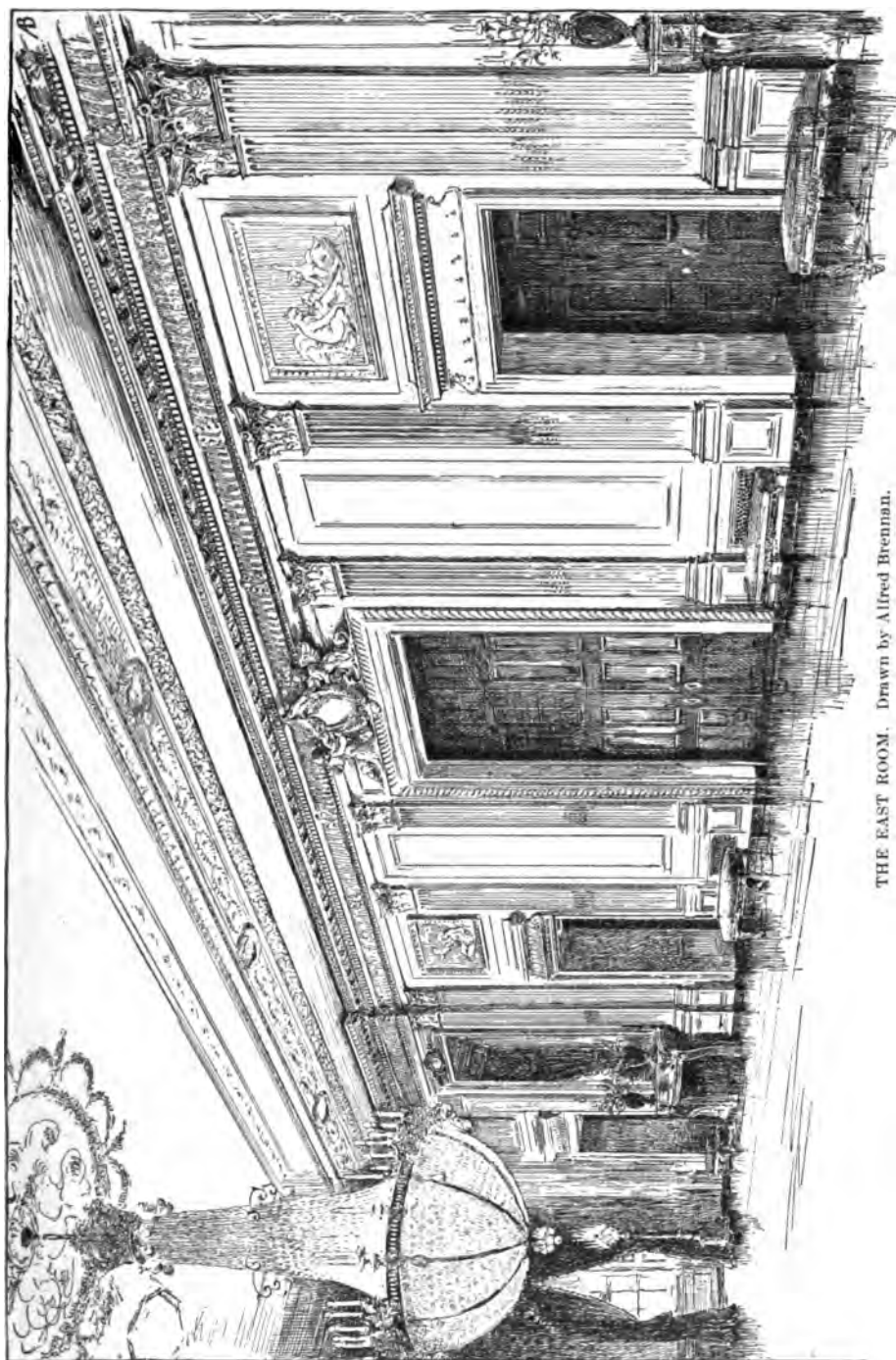
THE EAST ROOM.

The walls of the East Room are covered with wood paneling, enameled; the ornamental ceiling is done in stucco, and set in the walls are twelve low relief panels by Piccirilli Brothers, sculptors, the subjects being taken from Æsop's fables. On each the east and west sides of the room are two mantels of colored marble, with mirrors over them and candelabra on the shelves. Three crystal chandeliers form constituent parts of the decoration, as do also the four bronze standards bearing electric lights, which are placed at the four corners of the room. The window draperies are of heavy yellow silk damask; the banquettes are gilded and carved and are covered with silk velours, and there are four new console tables with marble tops. In this room, as in the other rooms on the drawing-room floor (except in the hall, where stone is used), hardwood floors have been laid, and wainscots have been introduced, of which the lower member has been made of marble of suitable color. The concert grand piano, decorated by Dewing, is the gift of the makers.^a

THE STATE DINING ROOM.

By removing the partition and including the western end of the corridor, the State Dining Room has been enlarged by over 60 per cent, and instead of accommodating between fifty and sixty guests at table, one hundred and seven can be seated comfortably. A stone chimney-piece, with an antique fire set, has been added. The walls are paneled from floor to ceiling in oak, richly carved; the chandelier and wall branches are of silver, and heads of American game are used around the frieze. The ceiling, in stucco, is elaborately decorated. There is an India carpet in solid color; the table and sideboards are of mahogany, and the chairs are upholstered in tapestry. The draperies are in green

^a Messrs. Steinway & Sons.



THE EAST ROOM. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

30 THE RESTORATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

velvet. Two tapestries, one bearing a text from Virgil's VIII Eclogue,^a are of Flemish workmanship of the seventeenth century.

THE TERRACES.

From the State Dining Room, as also from the East Room, windows open on the restored terraces, which are to be ornamented with suitable trees and fountains, and made comfortable with garden chairs and tables. These two garden-like spaces, 160 by 35 each, not only restore the area formerly occupied by the conservatory, but double it in extent.

THE FAMILY DINING ROOM.

A vaulted ceiling and wall paneling in plaster, a new marble mantel, a wainscoting in white enamel, a mirror copied from one belonging to the White House period, a mahogany table, chairs, and sideboard, all made from special designs, are features of the private dining room.

THE BUTLER'S PANTRY.

A mezzanine story has been added, and all dressers and interior fixtures have been entirely renewed, the storage space now being more than double what it was before the alterations were made. An electric plate warmer has been provided, and a new electric dumb-waiter running from the kitchen to the mezzanine story of the butler's pantry; also new ventilating apparatus.

THE USHER'S LOBBY.

This room has been entirely renewed and refitted with new wainscot, wall covering, floor, rug, furniture, and curtains.

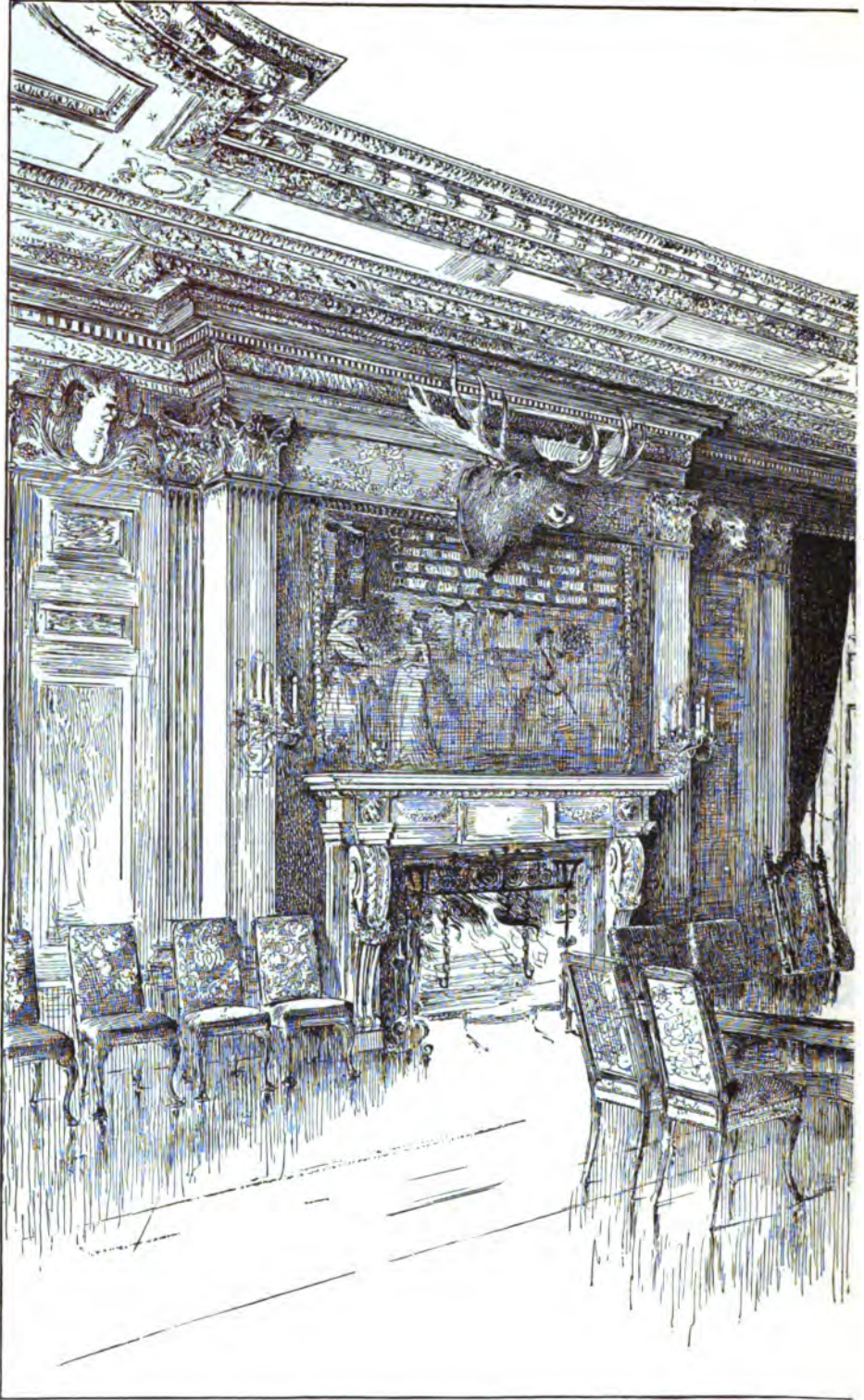
THE PRIVATE STAIRCASE AND ELEVATOR.

Extending from basement to attic is a marble and iron staircase and an electric elevator running up through a fireproof

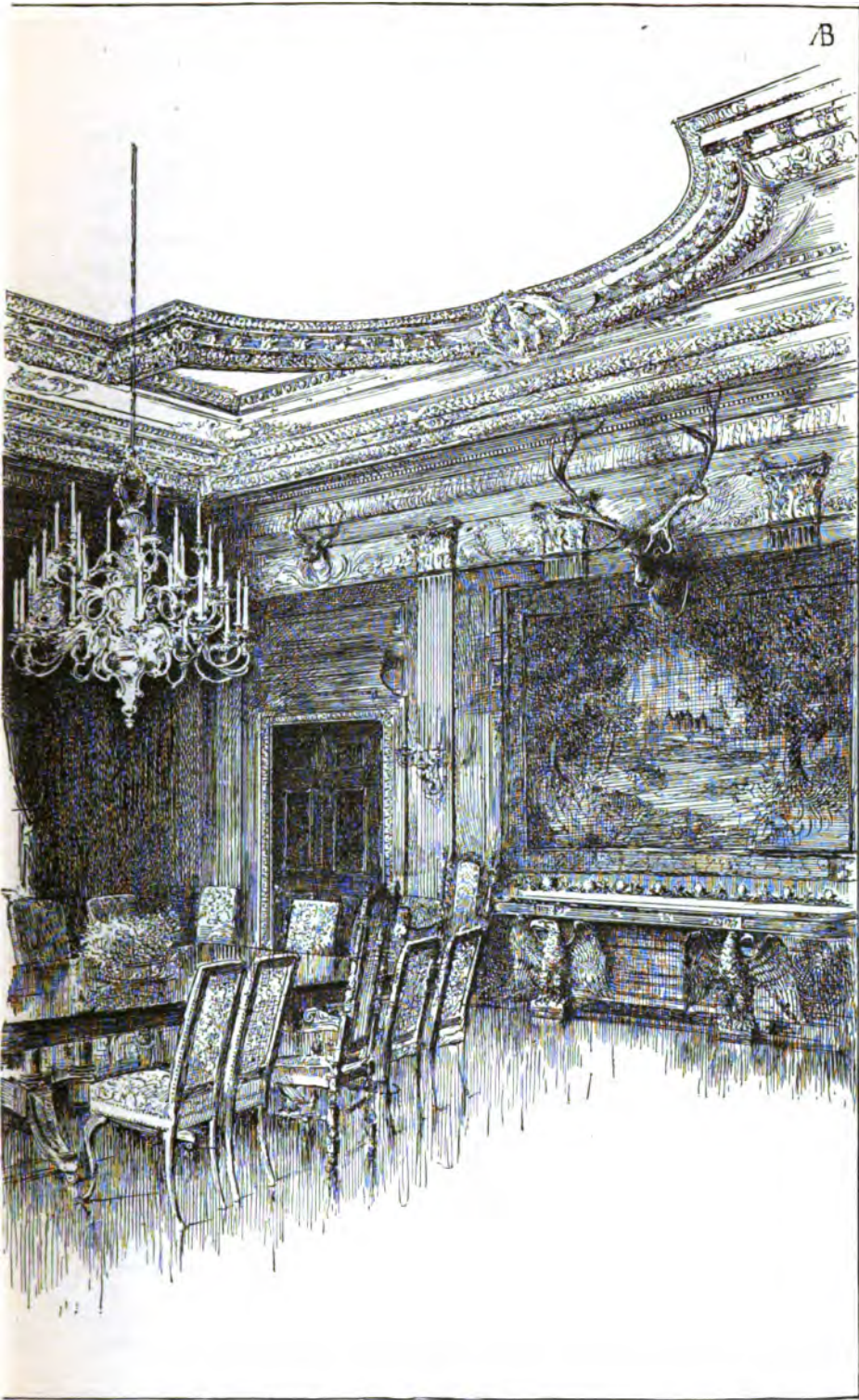
^a "Nysa is given in marriage to Mopsus! What may not we lovers expect? Griffins now shall mate with horses and in the succeeding age the timorous does shall come to drink with dogs. Begin with me, my flute,



THE FAMILY DINING ROOM. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

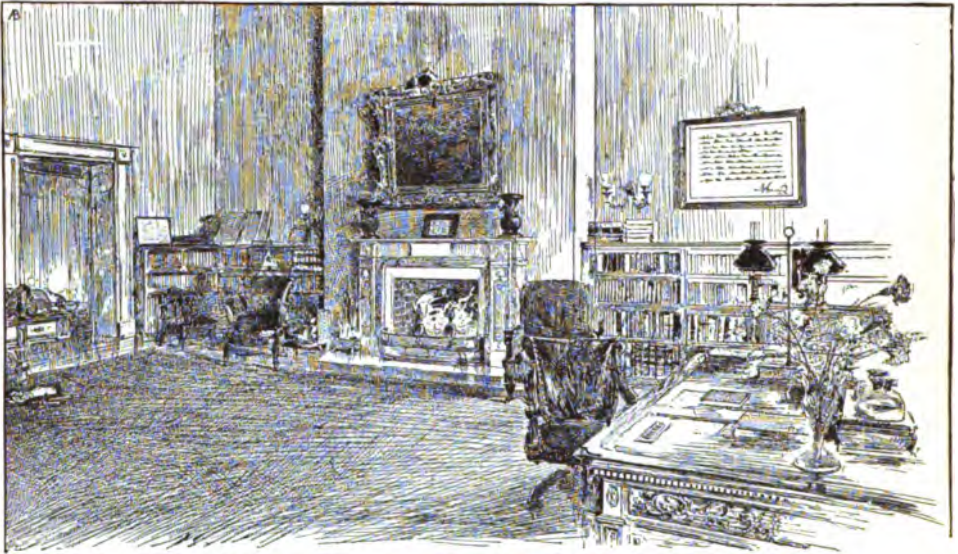


THE STATE DINING ROOM. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.



THE STATE DINING ROOM. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

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THE PRESIDENT'S STUDY (formerly the Cabinet Room). Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

THE RESTORATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE. 35

hall. In connection with the elevator it is interesting to note that a part of the oak woodwork in the new elevator-car was made from roof trusses of the Old South Church in Boston, which in its day sheltered the Boston Tea Party. Mr. Norcross had had the timbers in his yard since the time he replaced the old roof of the church with a new one.

THE MAIN STAIRWAY.

The main stairway to the second story is of Joliet stone, and consists of a broad flight from the main floor to the landing, where it divides into two flights. The railing is of forged iron and brass, with hand rail covered with velvet. A double gate of wrought iron, which rolls back into pockets in the walls, has been placed at the foot of the staircase. Above the landing the walls are paneled and painted.

THE FAMILY FLOOR.

Originally it was the intention not to touch any of the bedrooms except those over the East Room. It was found, however, that the electric wiring was in such bad condition that it would have to be entirely renewed. It then became necessary to cut the plaster in all of the rooms in order to get in the new electric ducts. This made it essential to repaint or decorate every room.

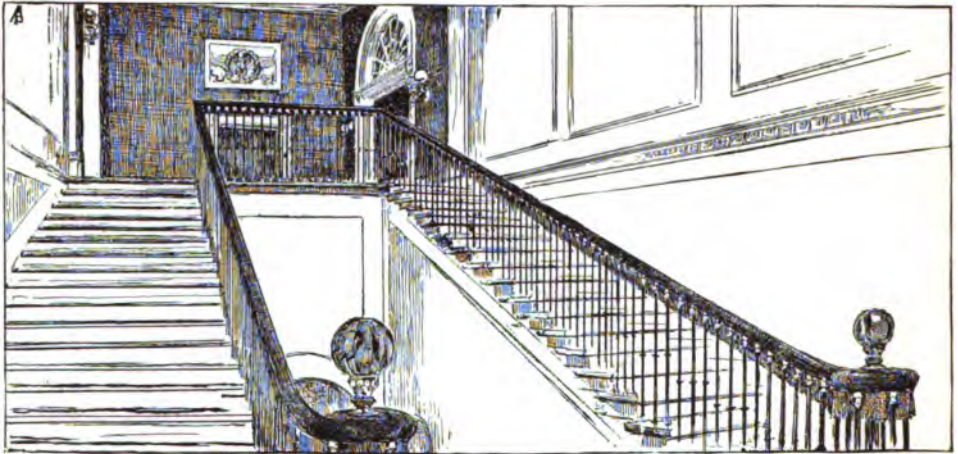
The space once given up to Executive clerks was made into two suites of bedrooms, each suite having its separate bathroom. A low wood wainscoting and new wood mantels were placed in the four large bedrooms and a new marble mantel^a in the President's study (formerly known as the Cabinet Room). The new floors are of white maple. In the four

Maenalian strains. Neopsus, cut fresh nuptial torches: for a wife is on the point of being brought home."—Translation by A. Hamilton Bryce, LL. D., F. R. S. E.

^aThis mantel bears the following inscription:

THIS ROOM WAS FIRST USED FOR MEETINGS OF THE CABINET DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON. IT CONTINUED TO BE SO USED UNTIL THE YEAR MCMII. HERE THE TREATY OF PEACE WITH SPAIN WAS SIGNED.

Copyright, 1903, by THE CENTURY CO.



THE MAIN STAIRWAY FROM THE LANDING, SHOWING THE DOOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S STUDY.
Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

large bed-rooms the new wood mantels, the wainscoting, and the wood paneling are all very simple in character.

New furniture has been provided for the four new rooms over the East Room, while for the remaining rooms on this floor the old furniture has been used, but has been re-covered with materials to match the new curtains which have been provided for all rooms excepting the Library. New electric-light fixtures have been provided, as it was found that with very few exceptions the old fixtures were not fit to use again. New carpets have been laid in the rooms over the East Room and in the President's study, and the old carpets have been recut and made up for the remaining rooms. All the bathrooms have been finished with marble floors and tiled walls, and the fixtures are of the best.

In connection with the second-floor rooms, it should be noted that the large increase in the cost of the electric wiring and heating plants, amounting to some \$13,000, which at the beginning could not have been foreseen, made it necessary to cut down the amounts allowed for interior finish, furniture, and decoration by a like amount.

On your instructions the structural parts and the finish of the public rooms of the drawing-room floor were made the first consideration, and for this reason new furniture and carpets were provided for only the new bedrooms over the East Room. The Library, which is the family living room, has scarcely been touched; in fact, nothing was done excepting what was absolutely necessary to make good after the new electric wiring of the room. In the President's study the walls are covered with plain buckram, and new bookshelves of the simplest character have been provided.

The corridor walls have been covered with burlap, and the ceilings and woodwork have been painted.

EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The old iron balustrade has been removed from the north front of the White House, and has been replaced by a stone

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balustrade. The lanterns which disfigured the great columns of the north portico have been removed, and that portico is now lighted by a single bronze lantern suspended from the roof of the portico.

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THE MAIN STAIRWAY GRILL. Drawing by Alfred Brennan.

service may be improved still further by constructing a passageway for wagons from the east side of the grounds to the west at the garden level.

CONCLUSION.

As has been stated above, the Executive offices were finished on September 30 and occupied about the middle of October. The family floor of the White House was reoccupied on

An important point is the new system of service. Under the old conditions the butchers' and bakers' wagons drove up to the north front of the house on the level of the main floor, and supplies were carried down the area steps and into the building in that way. Under present conditions all supplies enter at the east entrance on the ground-floor level, the wagons driving through under the north portico and never coming into view. When the temporary office building shall be removed the

THE RESTORATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE. 39

November 4; on December 18 the first official function, a Cabinet dinner, took place in the restored White House; and on January 1, 1903, the East Terrace was used for the first time, a full month in advance of the date set for the completion of this portion of the work.

The changes have been made within the appropriations of Congress, and a balance of \$7,906.10 is available for additional furnishings. A detailed account of the expenditures has been submitted through the office of Public Buildings and Grounds, and all accounts have been adjusted.

We feel that there is due from us to the various interests involved in the work an expression of our appreciation of their cordial cooperation. Especially is this due to Mr. O. W. Norcross for his untiring efforts, and for the faithful and competent direction of his superintendent, Mr. S. F. French, who have made possible the completion of the restoration of the White House within an extraordinarily short period of time.

The details connected with the execution of so extensive a work within so short a time has made necessary very frequent consultations on our part with the President and those acting for him. For the time so freely given, and for the confidence, the support, and the direction received, we beg leave to express grateful appreciation.

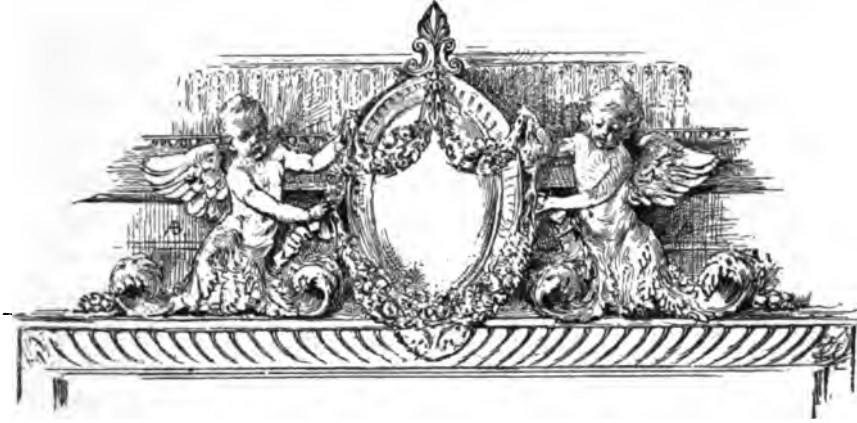
We have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully yours,

MCKIM, MEAD & WHITE.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE WHITE HOUSE.



DECORATION OVER PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE, EAST ROOM. Drawn by Alfred Brennan.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE WHITE HOUSE.

The site of the White House was selected by President Washington and Major Peter Charles L'Enfant when they laid out the Federal City in 1791. The Capitol and the President's House were the cardinal features in the composition designed by L'Enfant for the orderly, dignified, and effective location of public buildings. In the scheme for the development of the city of Washington, "now building for the metropolis of the United States," it was published to the world that "the President's House will stand upon a rising ground, not far from the banks of the Potomac, affording a fine water prospect, with a view of the Capitol^a and some other material parts of the city. Due south from the President's House and due west from the Capitol run two pleasure parks or malls, which intersect and terminate on the banks of the Potomac, and are ornamented at the sides by a variety of elegant buildings, houses for foreign ministers," etc.^b

^a This view was shut off by the extension of the Treasury Building to the south.

^b Walker's Universal Gazetteer, 1797, Dublin, Ireland, quoted in Pictures of the City of Washington in the Past, by Samuel C. Busey, M. D., LL. D., Washington, 1898, pages 122-124. For the proposed adaptation of these early plans to the conditions now prevailing see Senate Report No. 166, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session.

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The architect of the White House was James Hoban, a native of Dublin, Ireland, whose plans were selected as the result of a competition which closed on July 15, 1792. Hoban's design called for a central building with wings; but his original drawings have been lost, and only the plans for the main building remain. Hoban superintended both the erection of the White House and its restoration after it was burned by the British in 1814.^a The corner stone was laid October 13, 1792. Funds for the original construction of the building came from the sale of lots in the Federal City and from the moneys furnished by Maryland and Virginia for the construction of Government buildings. The house was first occupied by President and Mrs. John Adams in November, 1800. The first appropriation from the Treasury for the White House was one of \$15,000, made April 24, 1800, to provide furniture; and the first appropriation for repairs was one of like amount, made on March 3, 1807.

President Jefferson had his office outside the White House on the site occupied by the present Executive offices; and in 1819 Congress appropriated \$8,137 for enlarging "the offices west of the President's House." The South Portico was finished subsequent to 1823, at a cost of \$19,000; the East Room was finished and furnished by virtue of an appropriation of \$25,000 made in 1826; and three years later the North Portico was added, in accordance with the original plan, at an expense of \$24,769.25. The White House was first lighted by gas in 1848; and a system of heating and ventilating was installed in 1853. Four years later the stables and conservatory east of the White House were removed to make room for the extension of the Treasury Building.

The refurnishing of the White House after the war of 1812 was completed in 1818, at an expense of \$50,000; and the average annual expense for furnishing during the first seventy years of the occupancy of the house was \$6,000.

^a History of the United States Capitol, by Glenn Brown, Volume I, page 94.

The date at which the East and West terraces were added to the White House is uncertain, but probably they were completed during President Jefferson's Administration. The West Terrace was used as the support of a greenhouse probably in 1857, and the East Terrace was removed some time prior to 1870. In excavating for the new terrace the foundations of the old one were discovered.

The most definite description of the White House as it existed during its earlier days is to be found in *American Scenery*, published in London in 1840, and edited by N. P. Willis, who writes as follows:

The residence of the Chief Magistrate of the United States resembles the country seat of an English nobleman, in its architecture and size; but it is to be regretted that the parallel ceases when we come to the grounds. By itself it is a commodious and creditable building, serving its purpose without too much state for a republican country, yet likely, as long as the country exists without primogeniture and rank, to be sufficiently superior to all other dwelling houses to mark it as the residence of the nation's chief.

The President's House stands near the center of an area of some 20 acres, occupying a very advantageous elevation, open to the view of the Potomac and about 44 feet above high water, and possessing from its balcony one of the loveliest prospects in our country—the junction of the two branches of the Potomac which border the District and the swelling and varied shores beyond of the States of Maryland and Virginia. The building is 170 feet front and 86 deep and is built of white freestone, with Ionic pilasters, comprehending two lofty stories, with a stone balustrade. The north front is ornamented with a portico sustained by four Ionic columns, with three columns of projection, the outer intercolumniation affording a shelter for carriages to drive under. The garden front on the river (presented in the drawing)^a is varied by what is called a rusticated basement story, in the Ionic style, and by a semicircular projecting colonnade of six columns, with two spacious and airy flights of steps leading to a balustrade on the level of the principal story.

The interior of the President's House is well disposed and possesses one superb reception room and two oval drawing-rooms (one in each story) of very beautiful proportions. The other rooms are not remarkable, and there is an inequality in the furniture of the whole house (owing to the

^a See plates.

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unwillingness and piecemeal manner with which Congress votes any moneys for its decoration) which destroys its effect as a comfortable dwelling. The oval rooms are carpeted with Gobelin tapestry, worked with the national emblems, and are altogether in a more consistent style than the other parts of the house. It is to be hoped that Congress will not always consider the furniture of the President's House as the scapegoat of all sumptuary and aristocratic sins, and that we shall soon be able to introduce strangers not only to a comfortable and well-appointed, but to a properly served and nicely kept, Presidential Mansion.

Since 1870 the White House has been redecorated and re-furnished frequently, according to the taste of the times and within the limits of annual appropriations varying from \$10,000 \$30,000. Until 1902 the sums available have never been sufficient to accomplish a thorough reconstruction.

Referring to the recent changes at the White House the President in his latest message to the Congress says:

Through a wise provision of the Congress at its last session the White House, which had become disfigured by incongruous additions and changes, has now been restored to what it was planned to be by Washington. In making the restorations the utmost care has been exercised to come as near as possible to the early plans and to supplement these plans by a careful study of such buildings as that of the University of Virginia, which was built by Jefferson. The White House is the property of the nation, and so far as is compatible with living therein it should be kept as it originally was, for the same reasons that we keep Mount Vernon as it originally was. The stately simplicity of its architecture is an expression of the character of the period in which it was built, and is in accord with the purposes it was designed to serve. It is a good thing to preserve such buildings as historic monuments which keep alive our sense of continuity with the nation's past.

**PLATES ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY
OF THE WHITE HOUSE.**

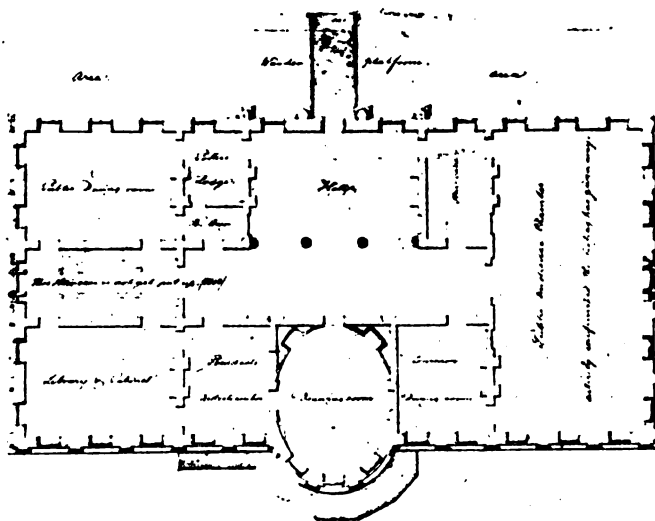
S. Doc. 197—4

47



WHITE HOUSE, 1799.
After a sketch by N. King.

The surrounding ground was chiefly used for (brick yards).
 It was marked in a rough plot and soil journal (1803)



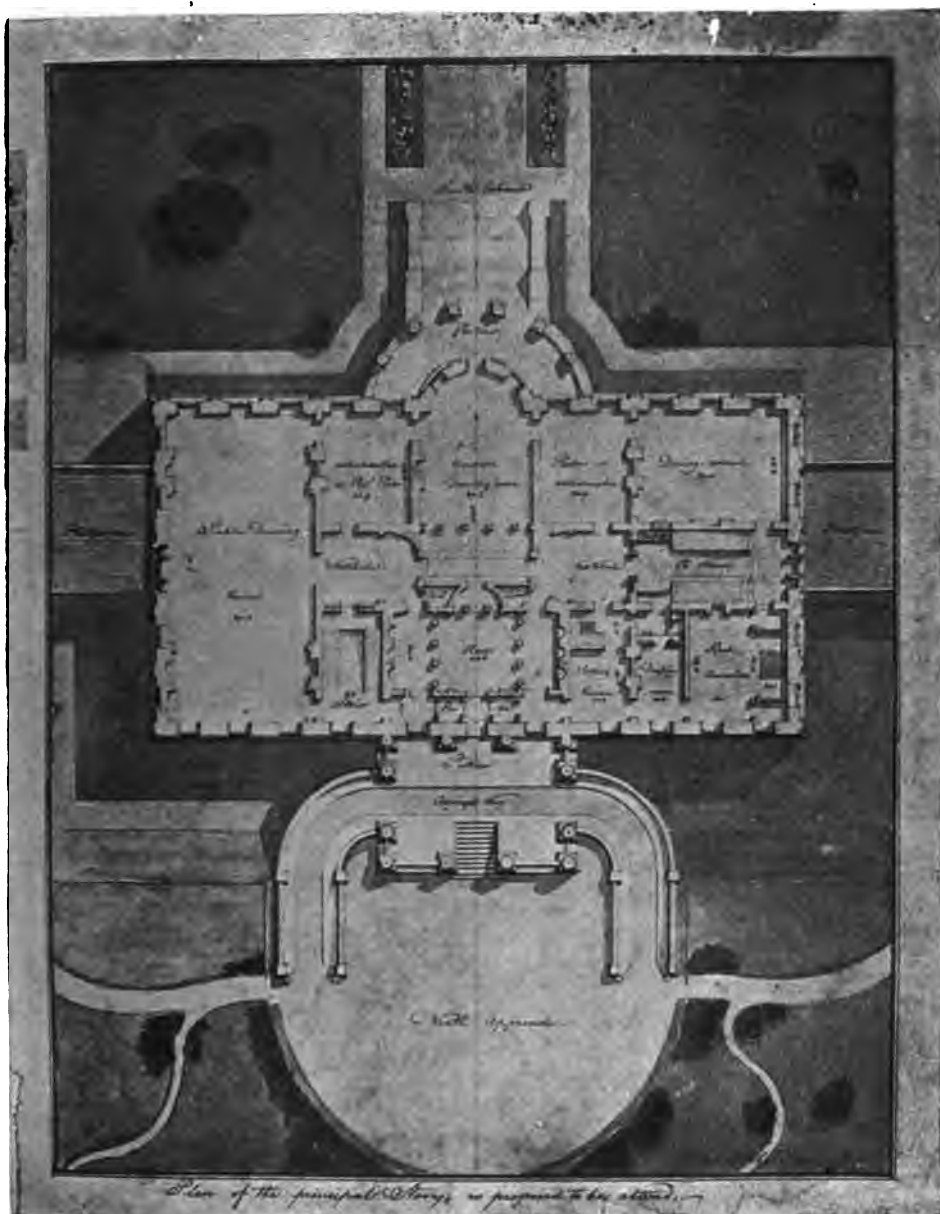
During the short residence of President Adams at Washington, the mansion & office & platform were the usual
 entrance to the house, and the present drawing room was a mere vestibule.

Plan of the Principal Story in 1803.

B. Henry Latrobe 1807

PLAN OF THE PRINCIPAL STORY IN 1803.

Drawn by B. Henry Latrobe, Superintendent of Public Buildings, 1807.

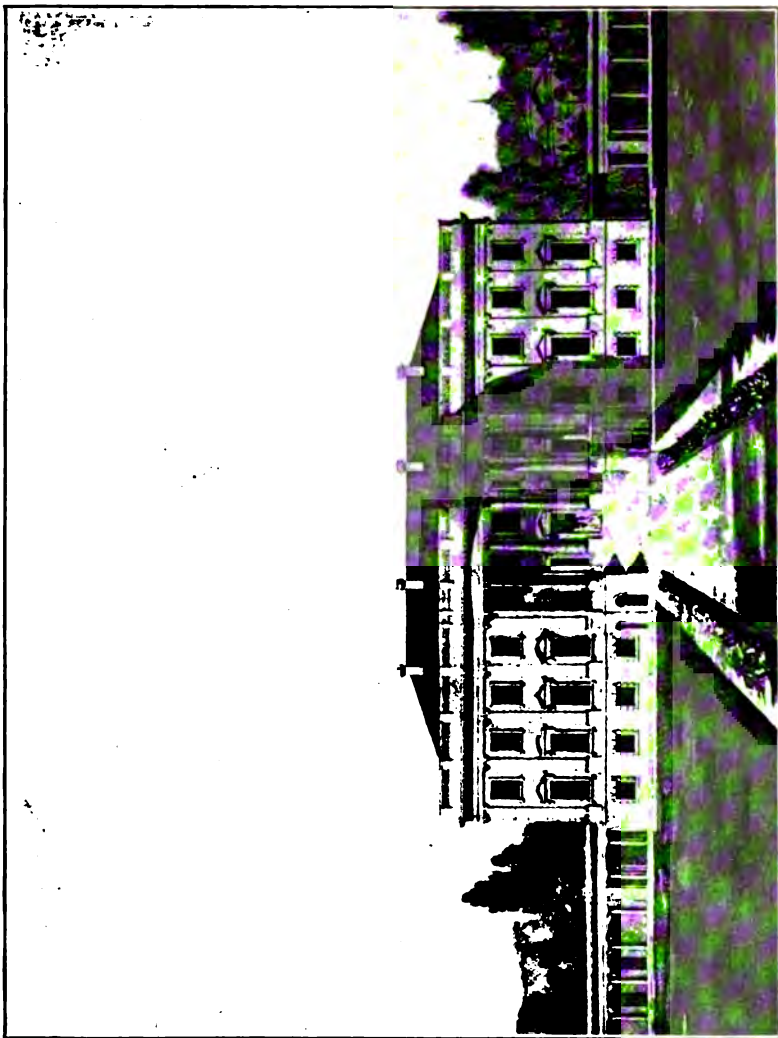


PLAN OF THE PRINCIPAL STORY AS PROPOSED TO BE ALTERED.
B. Henry Latrobe, 1807.



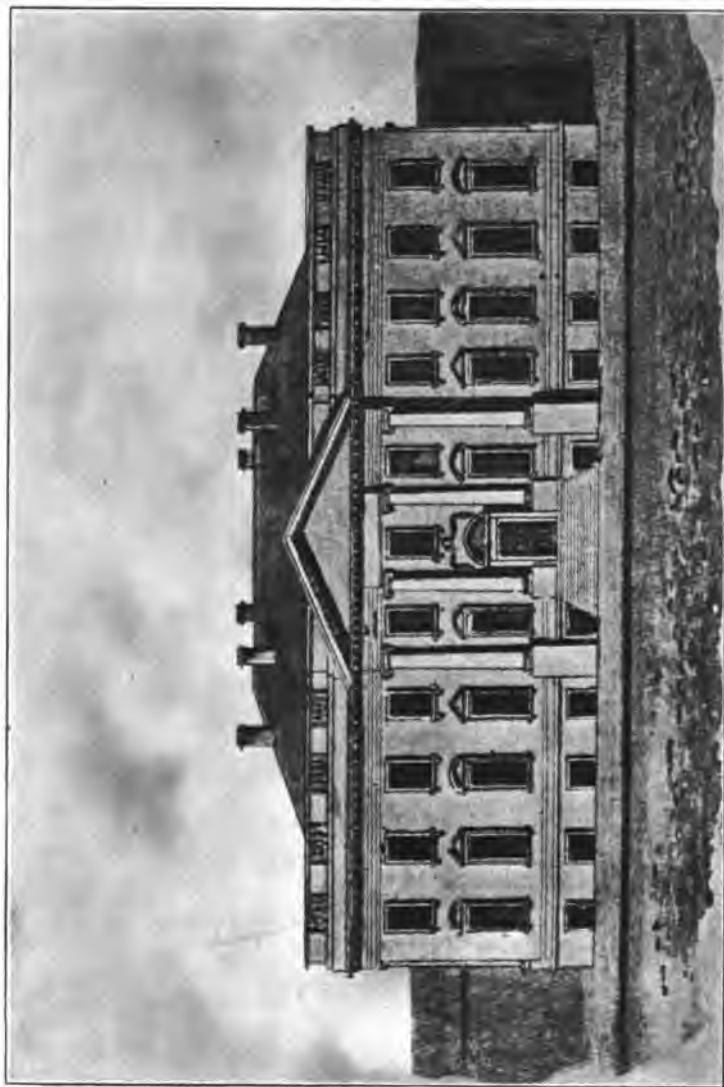
EAST FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH PORTICOES.

B. H. Latrobe, Superintendent of Public Buildings, 1807.



SOUTH FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

Copied from the design as proposed to be altered, January, 1807; B. H. Latrobe



THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

From "The Stranger in America," by Charles William Jansen; London, 1817. This print appears also in the Magazine of American History for May, 1887, with the title "From an Original Sketch taken on the Spot," by C. W. Jansen, the only picture in existence as far as known of the White House before it was burned by the British. Copied by the courtesy of Dr. Addis Emmet.

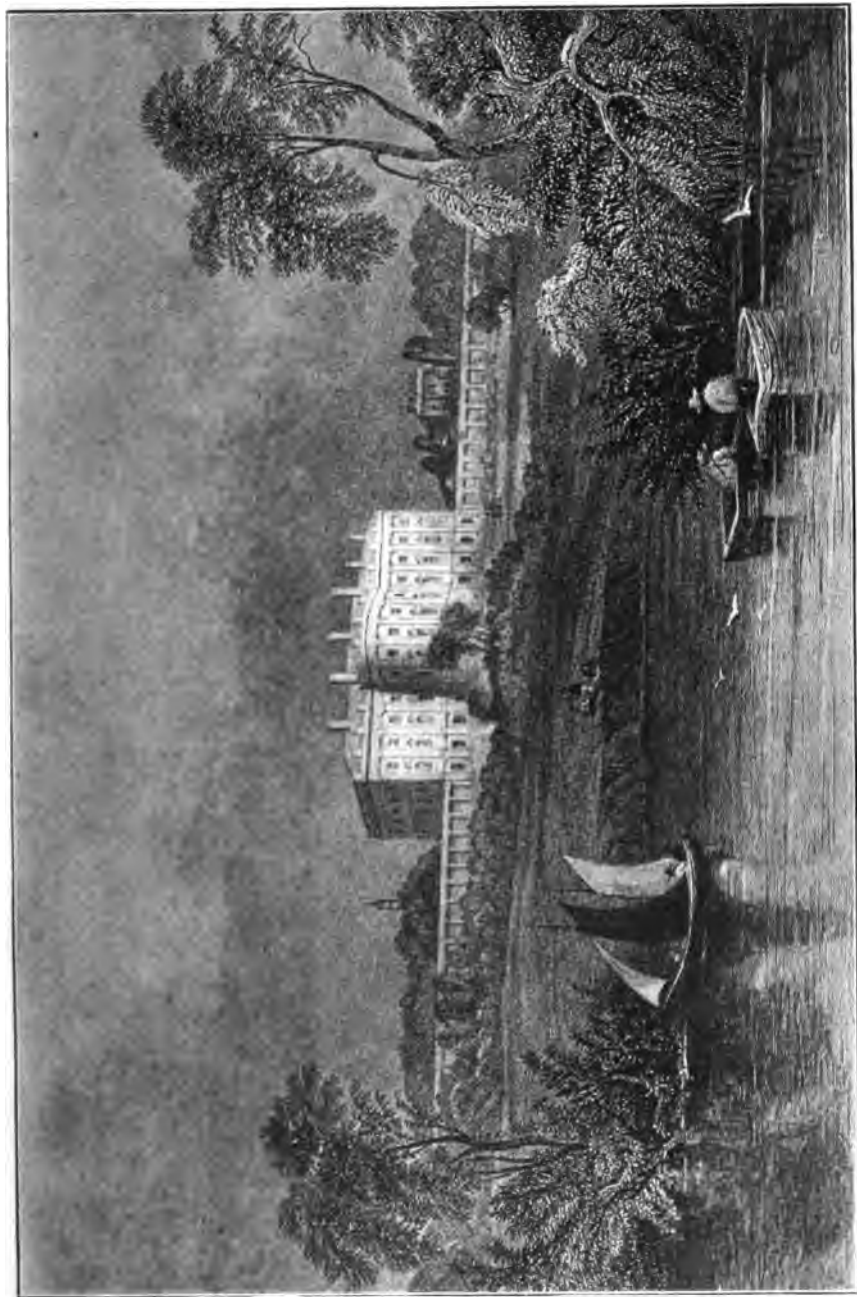


FRONT VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.
From the *Analectic Magazine*, April, 1820; Philadelphia.



THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

From "The History and Topography of the United States of America," edited by John Howard Hinton, A. M.; Boston, 1834.



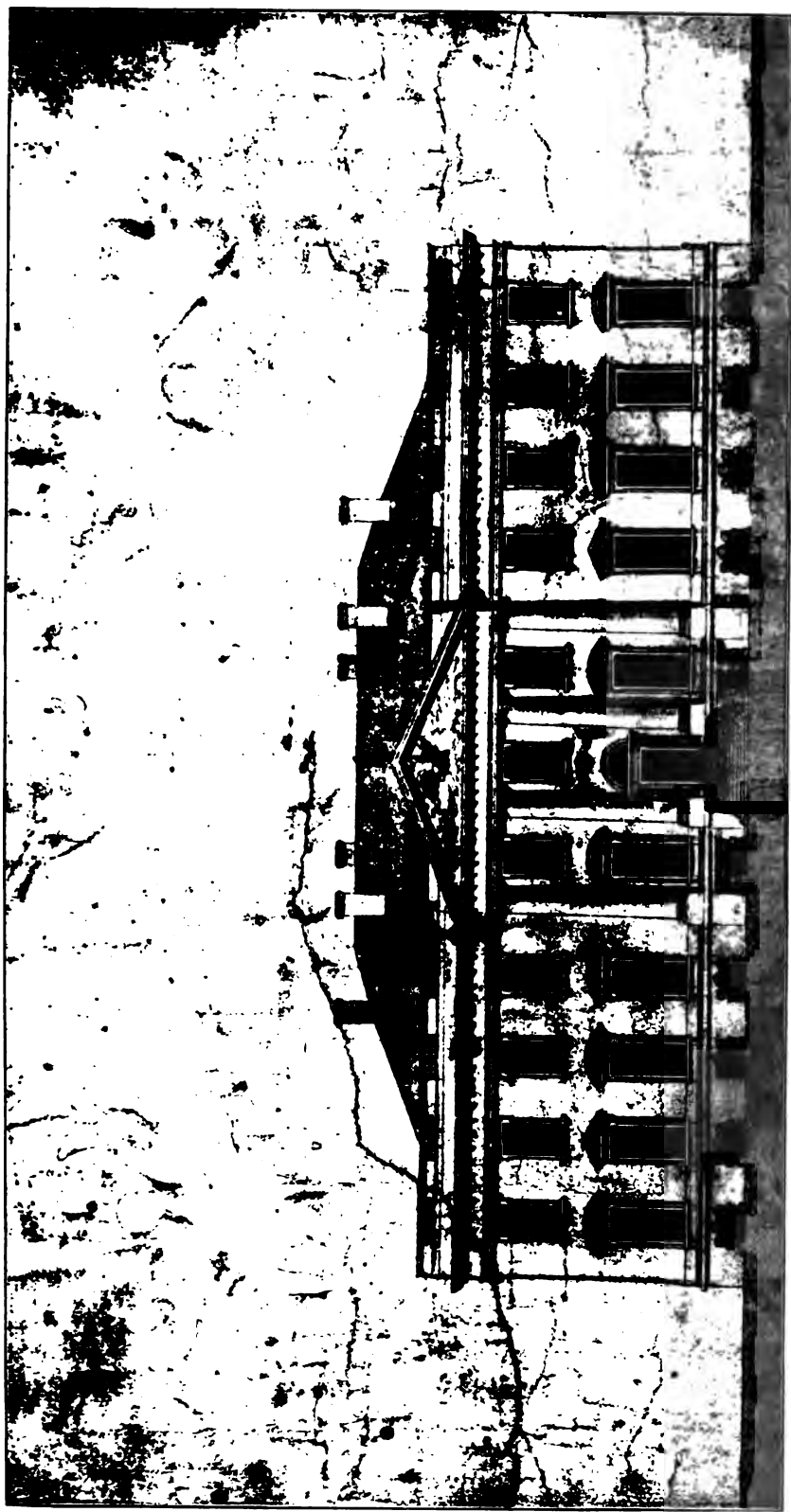
THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE FROM WASHINGTON.

From "American Scenery," edited by N. P. Willis; illustrated by W. H. Bartlett; London, 1840



THE WHITE HOUSE.

From Ballou's Pictorial Companion; Boston, March 17, 1855.

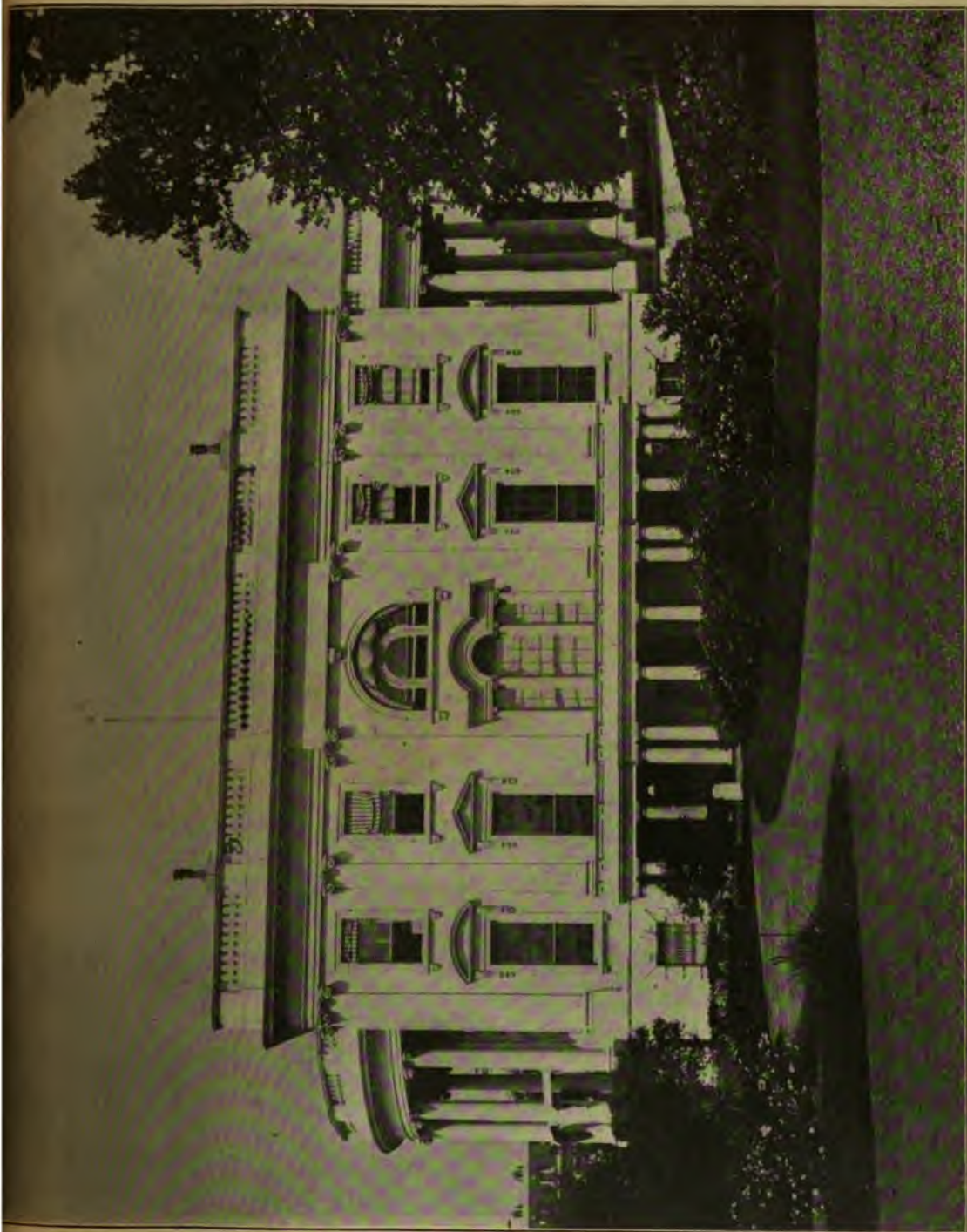


ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE, BY JAMES HOBAN, 1792.

From the collection of Mr. Glenn Brown, F. A. I. A.



THE WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH FRONT, 1900.



THE WHITE HOUSE, EAST FRONT, 1900.



PRESIDENT MCKINLEY LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE TO ATTEND THE EXERCISES AT THE CAPITOL COMMEMORATIVE OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE REMOVAL OF THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DECEMBER 12, 1900.

PLATES FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING
THE WORK OF RESTORATION,
SUMMER OF 1902.



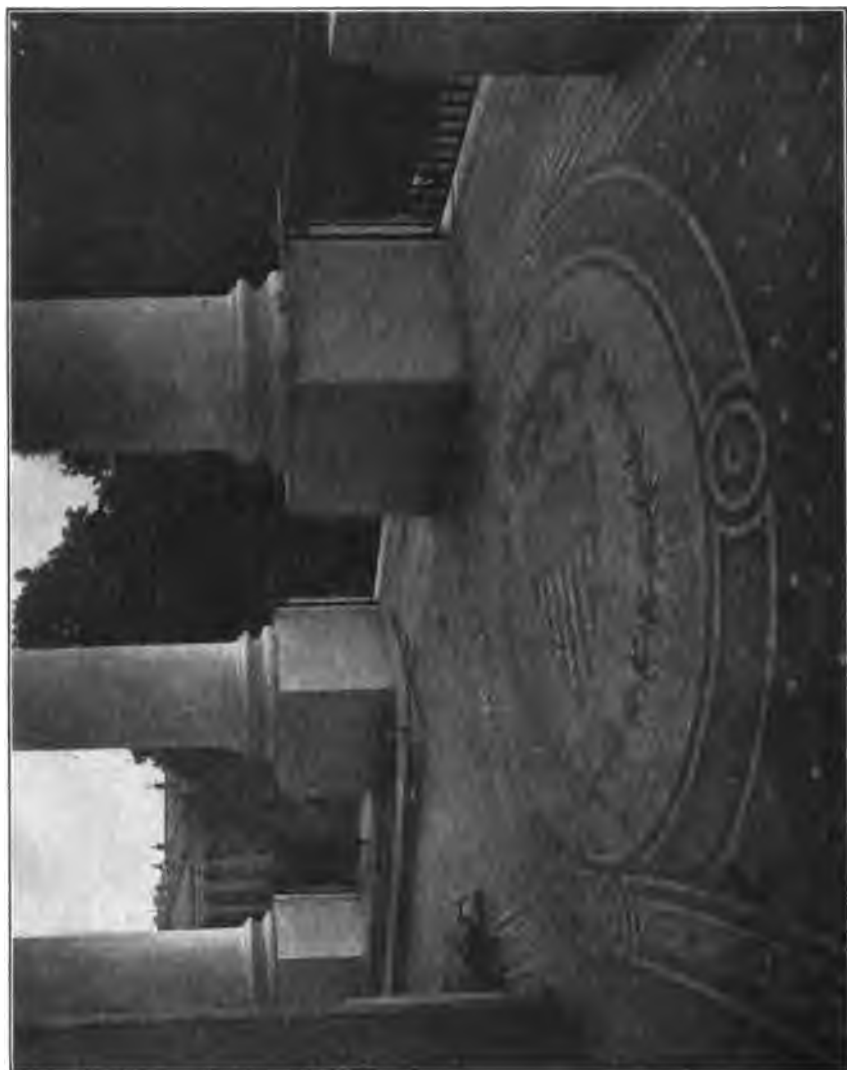
THE EAST ROOM, JULY 15, 1902.



BASEMENT CORRIDOR, EAST END, JULY 15, 1902.



BASEMENT CORRIDOR, WEST END, JULY 15, 1902.



SOUTH PORTICO, MOSAIC FLOOR, BEFORE ALTERATION.



STATE DINING ROOM, JULY 16, 1902.



THE BLUE ROOM, JULY 16, 1902.



THE PRIVATE HALL, JULY 16, 1902.



FOUNDATIONS OF TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING, JULY 16, 1902.



THE EAST ROOM, JULY 17, 1902.



THE RED ROOM, JULY 17, 1902.



SERVICE STAIR HALL, SECOND STORY, JULY 19, 1902.



MAIN CORRIDOR, FAMILY FLOOR, OVER STATE DINING ROOM, JULY 20, 1902.



UNDER THE BLUE ROOM, JULY 20, 1902.



BASEMENT UNDER THE BLUE ROOM, JULY 20, 1902.



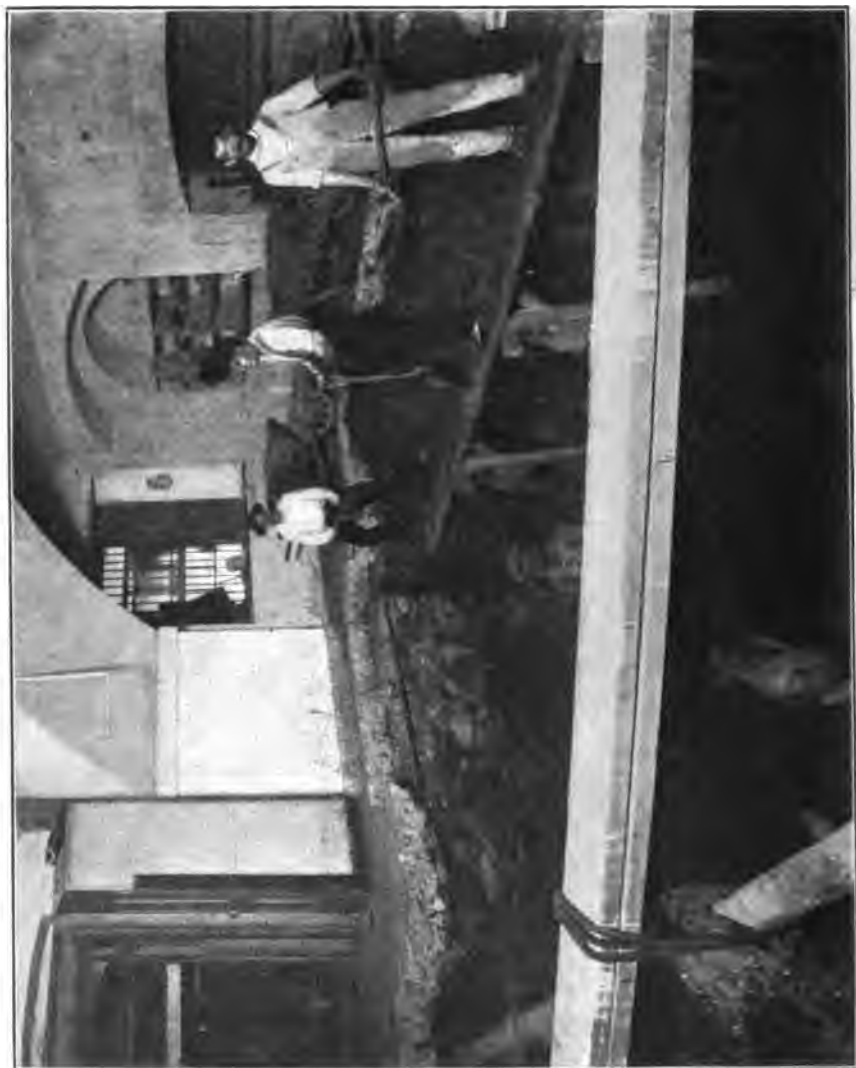
EAST ROOM FROM SECOND STORY, JULY 20, 1902.



MAIN VESTIBULE, JULY 20, 1902.



BASEMENT CORRIDOR, EAST END, JULY 20, 1902.



BASEMENT, EXCAVATION FOR BOILER, JULY 20, 1902.



STATE DINING ROOM, JULY 20, 1902.



VIEW OVER STATE DINING ROOM, JULY 22, 1902.



TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING, JULY 22, 1902



MAIDS' DINING ROOM, AUGUST 1, 1902.



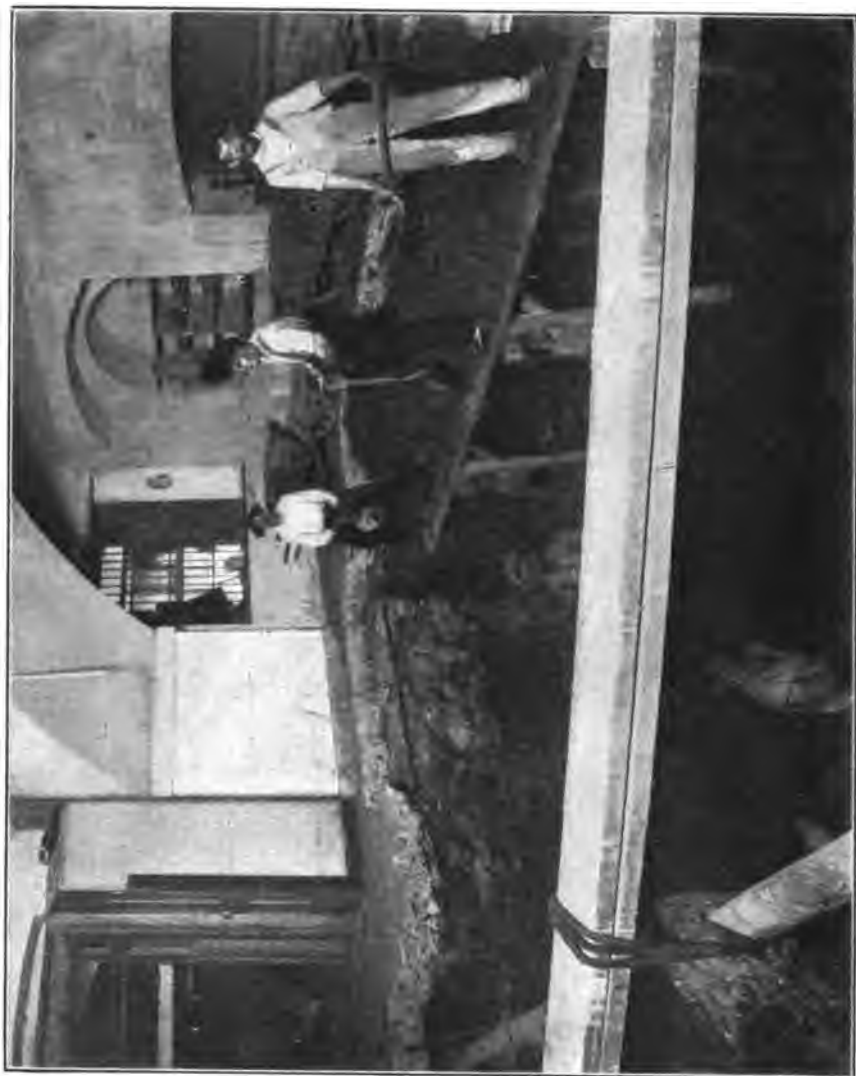
CONDUIT FOR DRAIN, WATER, STEAM, ELECTRIC, AND OTHER PIPES. AUGUST 1, 1902.



MAIN VESTIBULE, JULY 20, 1902.



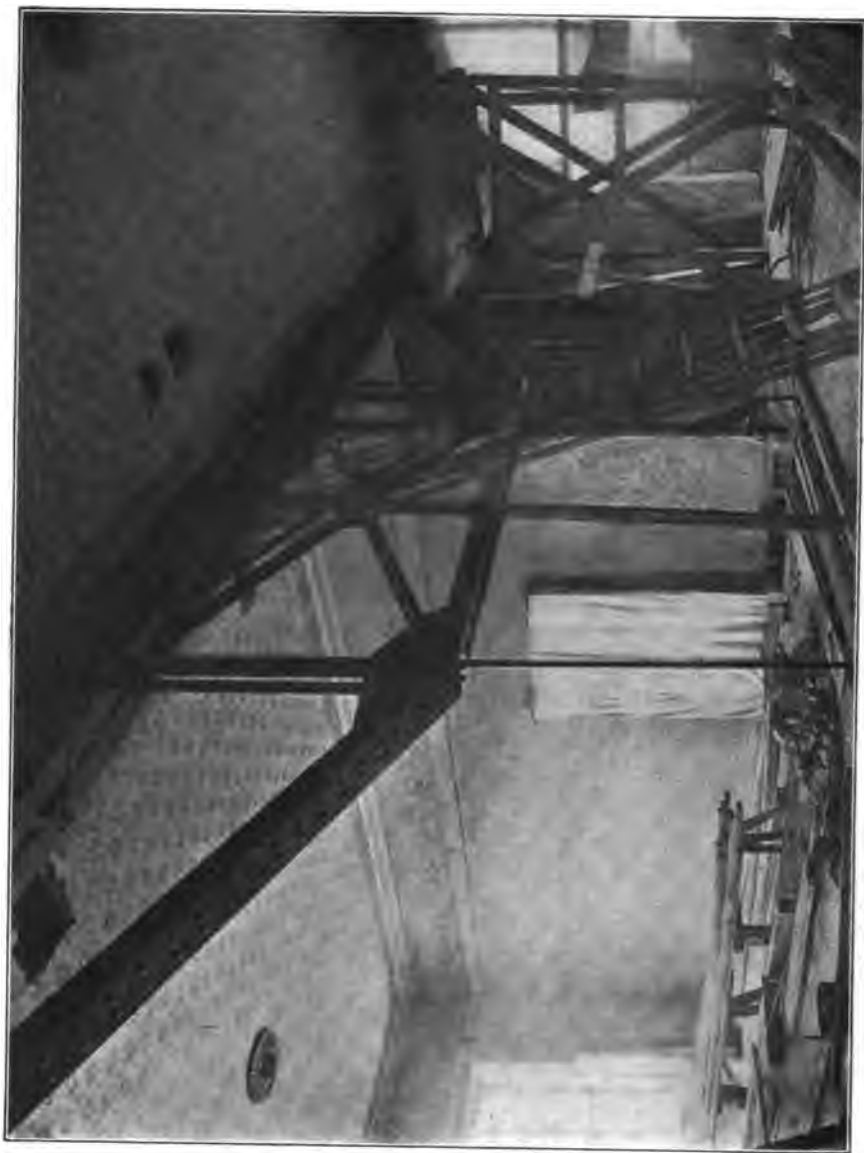
BASEMENT CORRIDOR, EAST END, JULY 20, 1902.



BASEMENT, EXCAVATION FOR BOILER, JULY 20, 1902.



STATE DINING ROOM, JULY 20, 1902.



VIEW OVER STATE DINING ROOM, JULY 22, 1902.



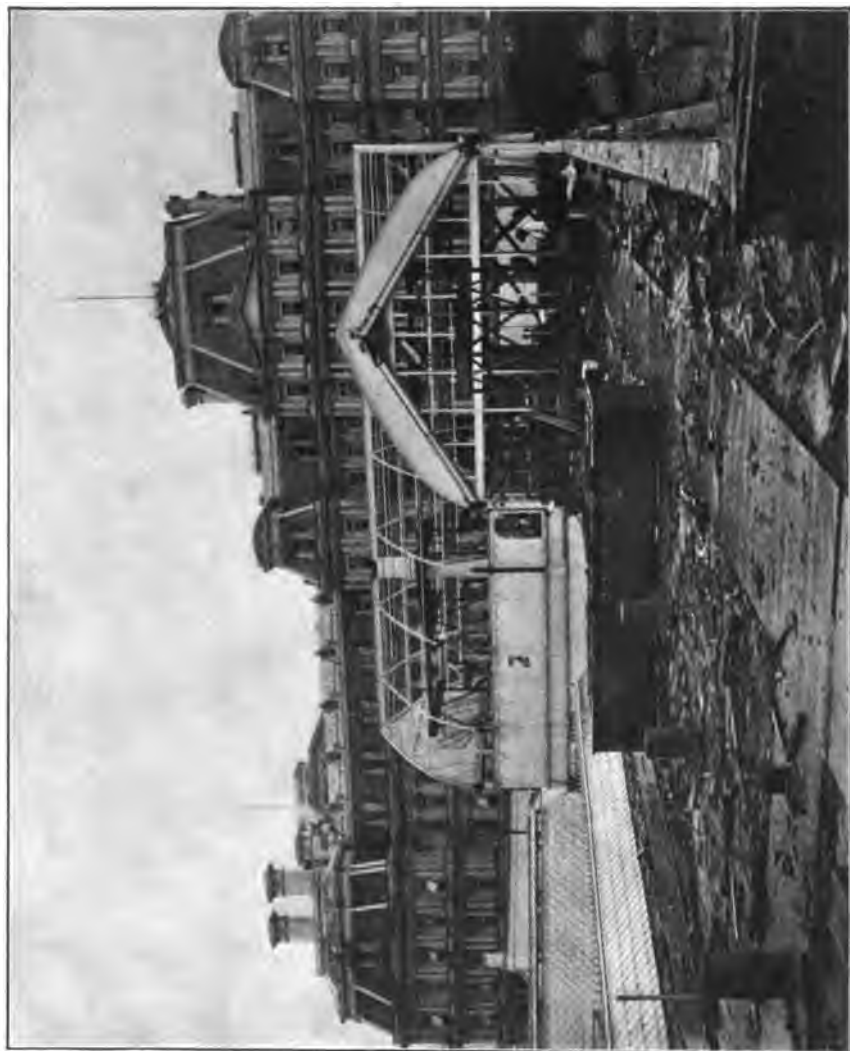
TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING, JULY 22, 1902



MAIDS' DINING ROOM, AUGUST 1, 1902.



CONDUIT FOR DRAIN, WATER, STEAM, ELECTRIC, AND OTHER PIPES, AUGUST 1, 1902.



THE LAST CONSERVATORY ON WEST TERRACE, AUGUST 1, 1902.



SHOWING FORMER ALTERATION IN WEST WINDOWS OF STATE DINING ROOM, AUGUST 1, 1902.



TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING, AUGUST 1, 1902.



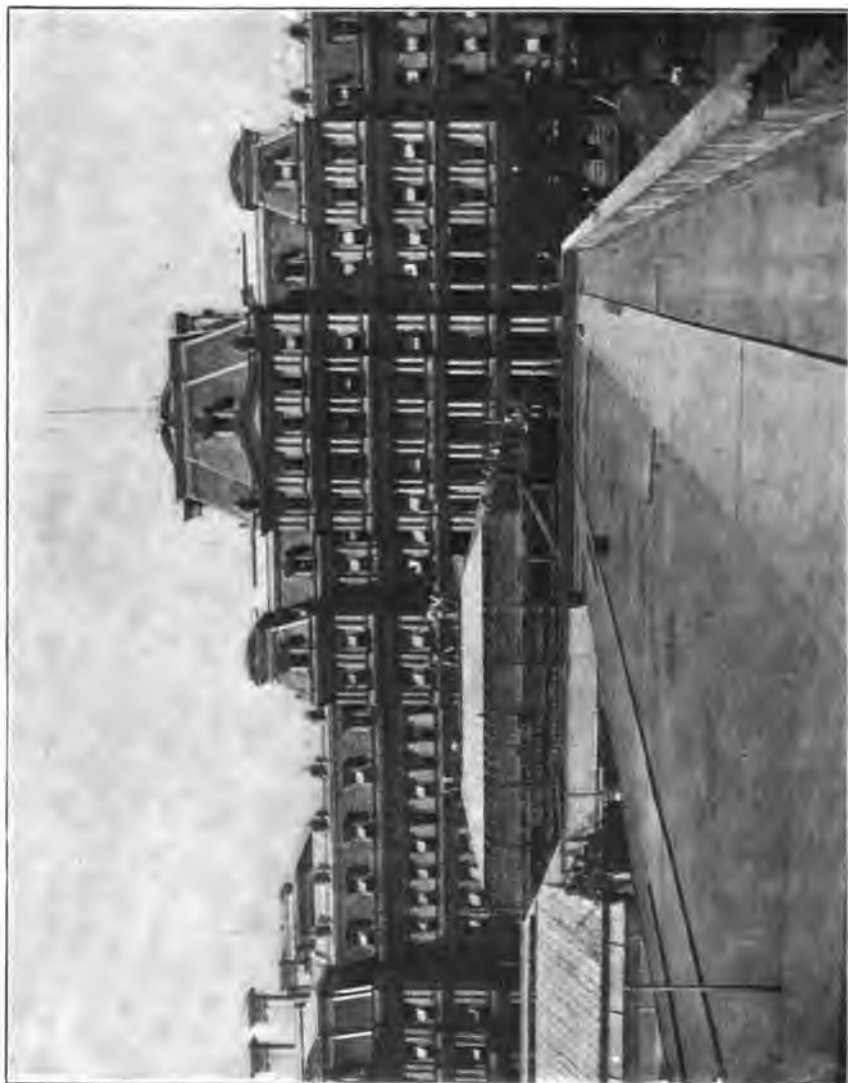
THE GREENHOUSES REMOVED, AUGUST 5, 1902.



BEGINNING THE EAST TERRACE, AUGUST 6, 1902.



STATE DINING ROOM CEILING, AUGUST 7, 1902.



WEST TERRACE, AUGUST 7, 1902.



OLD WEST COLONNADE EXPOSED BY REMOVAL OF GREENHOUSES, AUGUST 7, 1902.



CORRIDOR, AUGUST 7, 1902.



THE KITCHEN, AUGUST 7, 1902.



TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING, AUGUST 7, 1902.



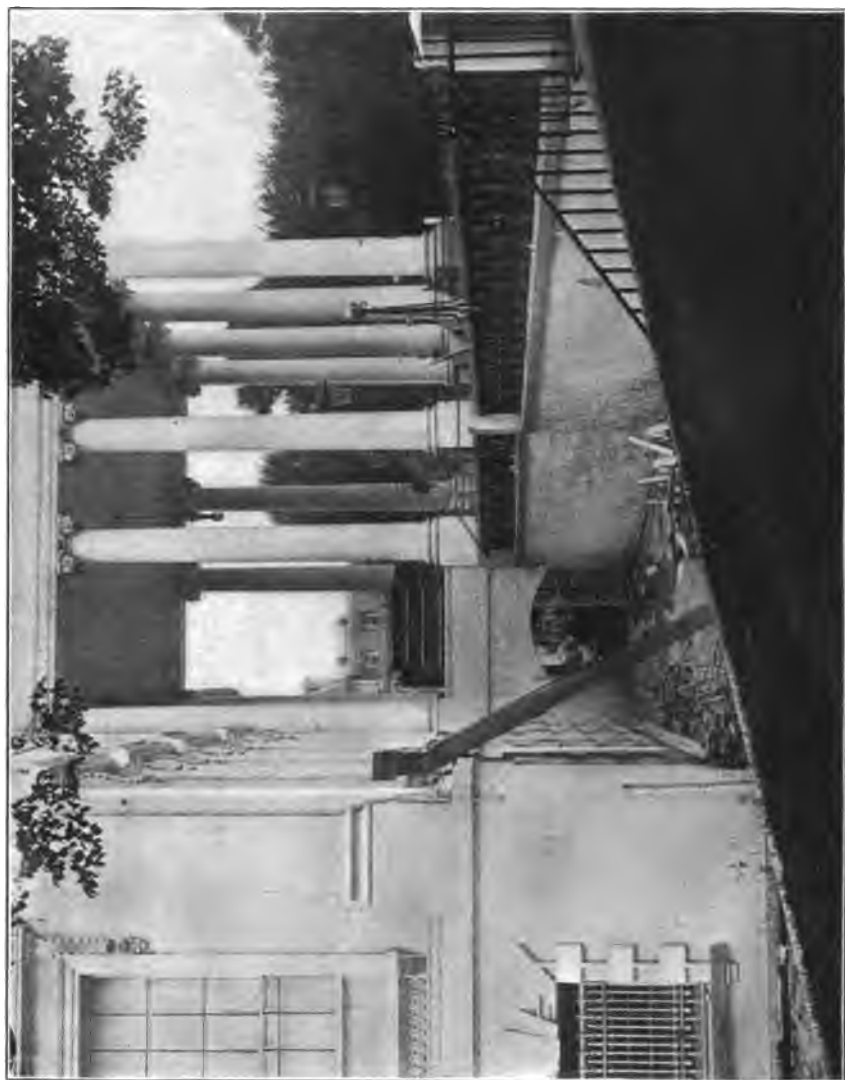
THE BOILER PIT, AUGUST 7, 1902.



EAST ROOM CEILING, AUGUST 20, 1902.



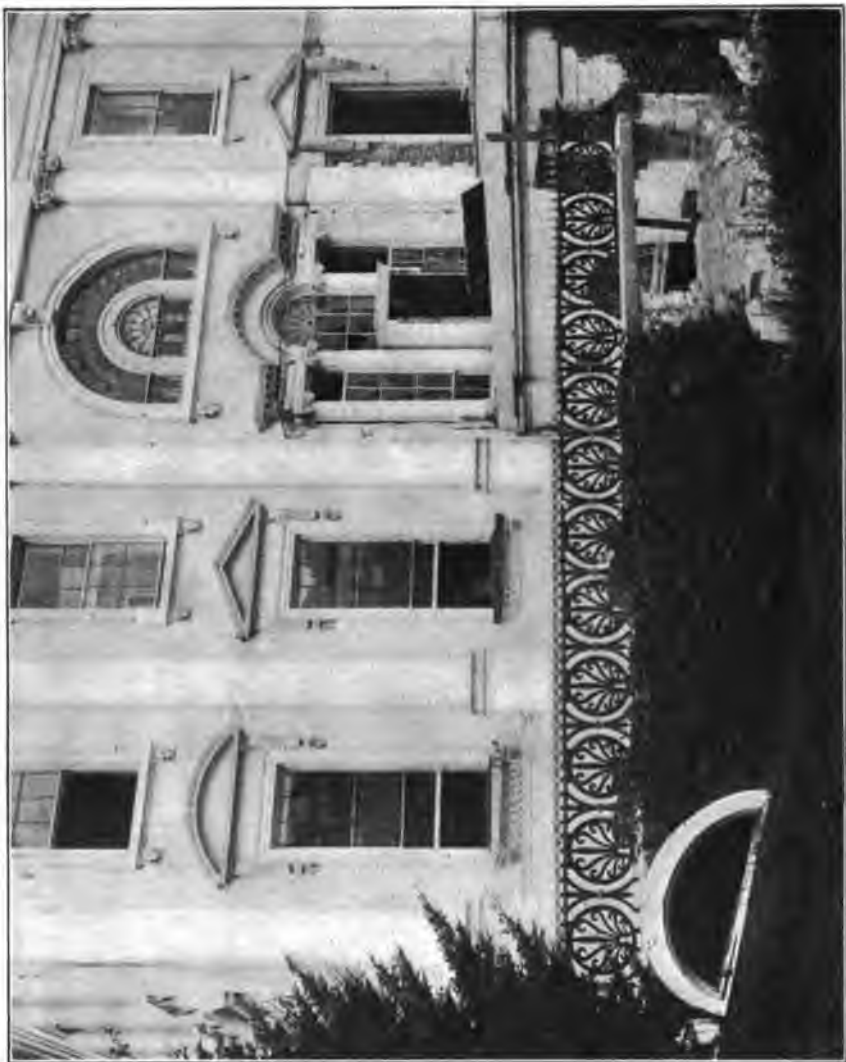
STONE STAIRWAY FROM BASEMENT, AUGUST 20, 1902.



SERVICE AREA, AUGUST 20, 1902.



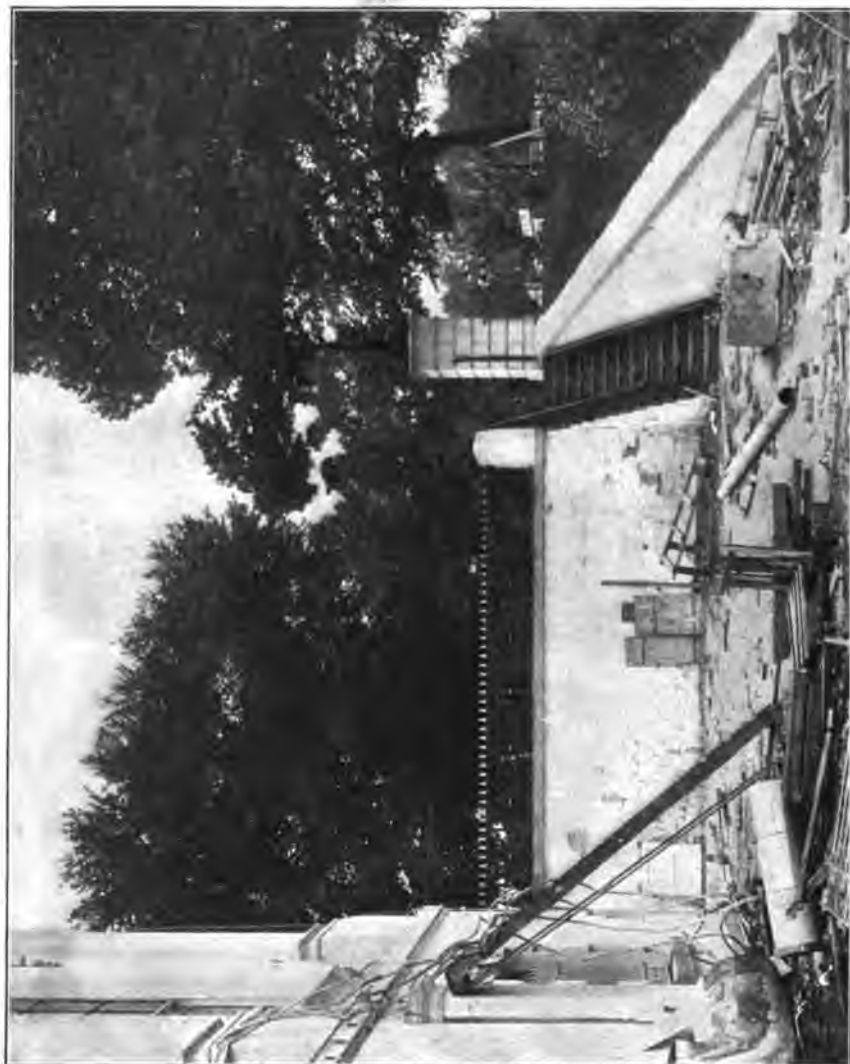
AREA STEPS AND GATEPOST, AUGUST 20, 1902.



AREA RAILING AND SERVICE ENTRANCE, AUGUST 20, 1902.



FIRST CUT FOR EAST ENTRANCE, AUGUST 20, 1902.



SERVICE ENTRANCE AND STEPS, AUGUST 20, 1902.



EAST TERRACE, AUGUST 20, 1902.



EAST TERRACE, SEPTEMBER 5, 1902.



EAST TERRACE, SEPTEMBER 10, 1902.



EAST TERRACE AND ENTRANCE. SEPTEMBER 10, 1902.



TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1902.



PRIVATE STAIRWAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1902.



RED ROOM MANTEL, SEPTEMBER 20, 1902.



MAIN STAIRWAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1902.



SERVICE STAIRWAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1902.



PRIVATE DINING ROOM, SEPTEMBER 25, 1902.



EAST TERRACE, NORTHEAST VIEW, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



EAST TERRACE FROM TREASURY DEPARTMENT BUILDING, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



APPROACH TO WEST TERRACE, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



WEST TERRACE, NORTH FRONT, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



WEST TERRACE, NORTHWEST VIEW, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



WEST TERRACE, SOUTH VIEW, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



PRINCIPAL STAIRWAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



BASEMENT CORRIDOR, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING, NOVEMBER 1, 1902.



NORTH PORTICO, SHOWING LANTERN.



NORTH PORTICO, LOOKING TOWARD TREASURY DEPARTMENT BUILDING.



EAST TERRACE, RECONSTRUCTED ON FOUNDATION OF FORMER TERRACE.



EAST TERRACE, SHOWING WATCHMEN'S QUARTERS.



EAST TERRACE, AS RECONSTRUCTED.



EAST TERRACE FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT BUILDING.



WEST TERRACE AFTER THE REMOVAL OF THE GREENHOUSES.



TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING COMPLETED.



TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING FROM THE STATE, WAR, AND NAVY BUILDING, WITH A VIEW OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND THE CAPITOL.



SOUTH FRONT, NOVEMBER, 1902.



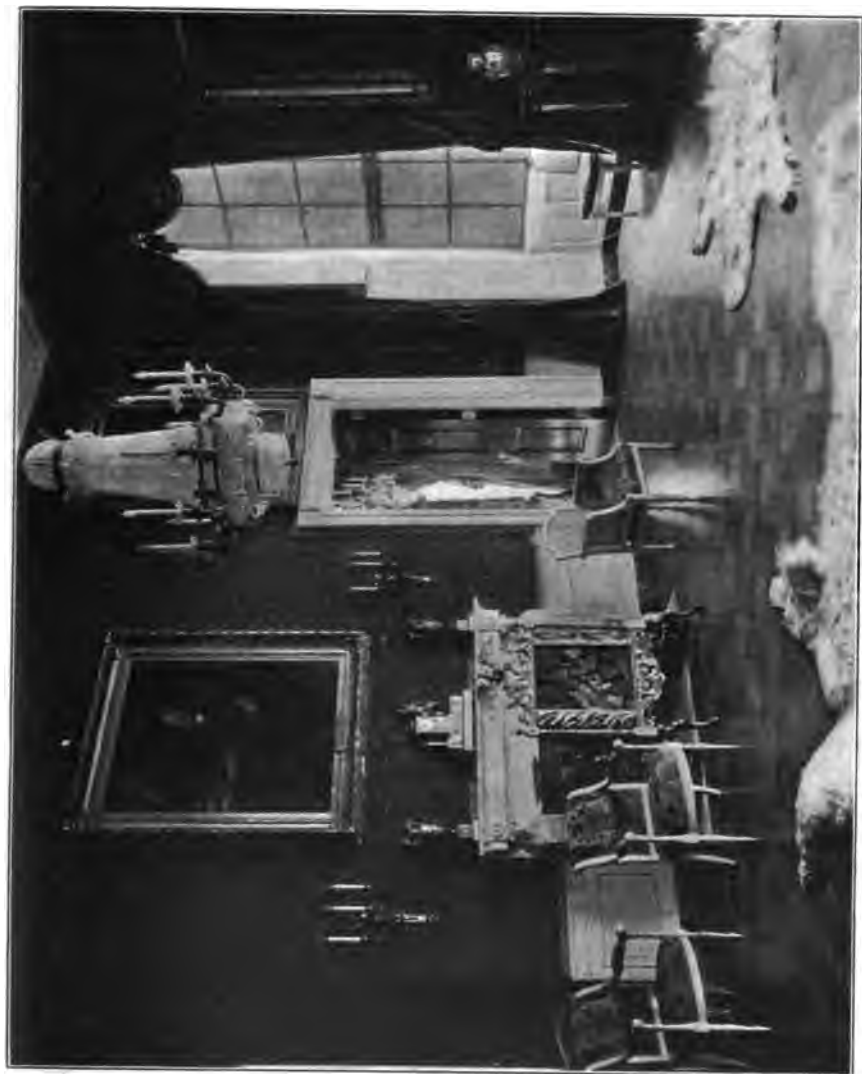
MAIN HALL, SHOWING STATUE IN THE PLACE RESERVED FOR THE LINCOLN.



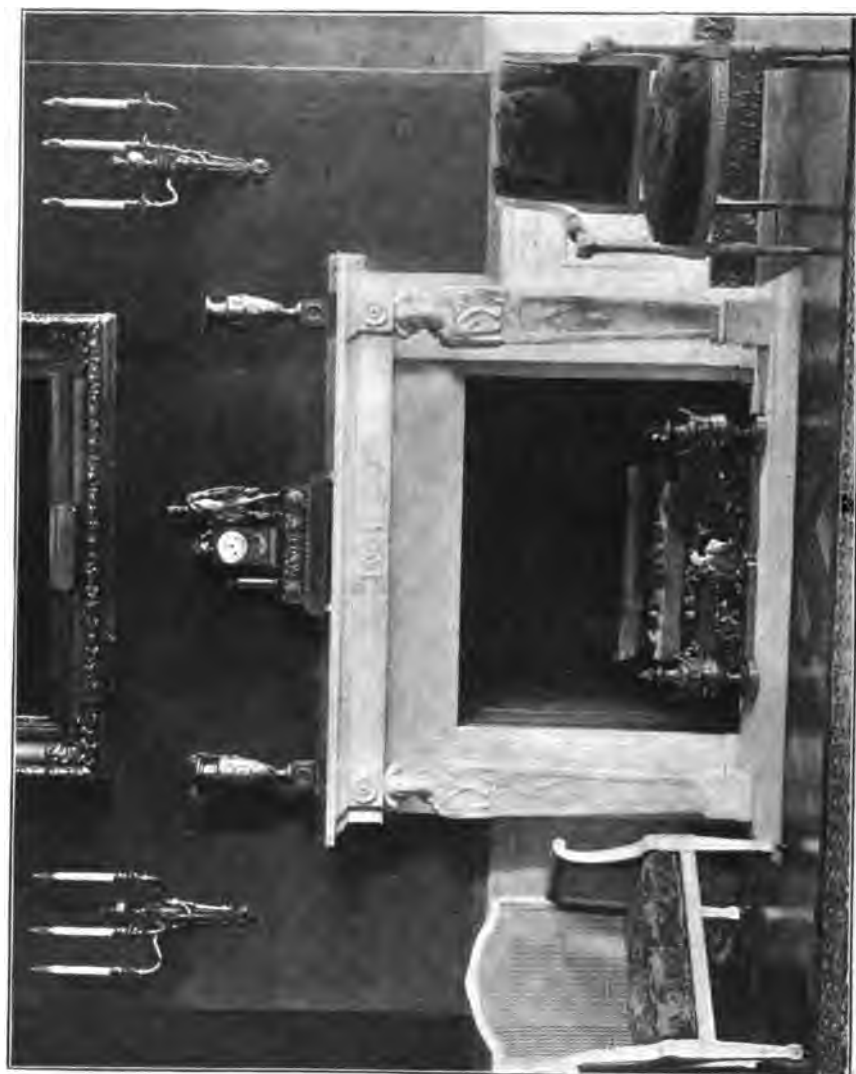
THE HALL, SHOWING STATUE IN THE PLACE RESERVED FOR HOUDIN'S WASHINGTON.



THE RED ROOM.



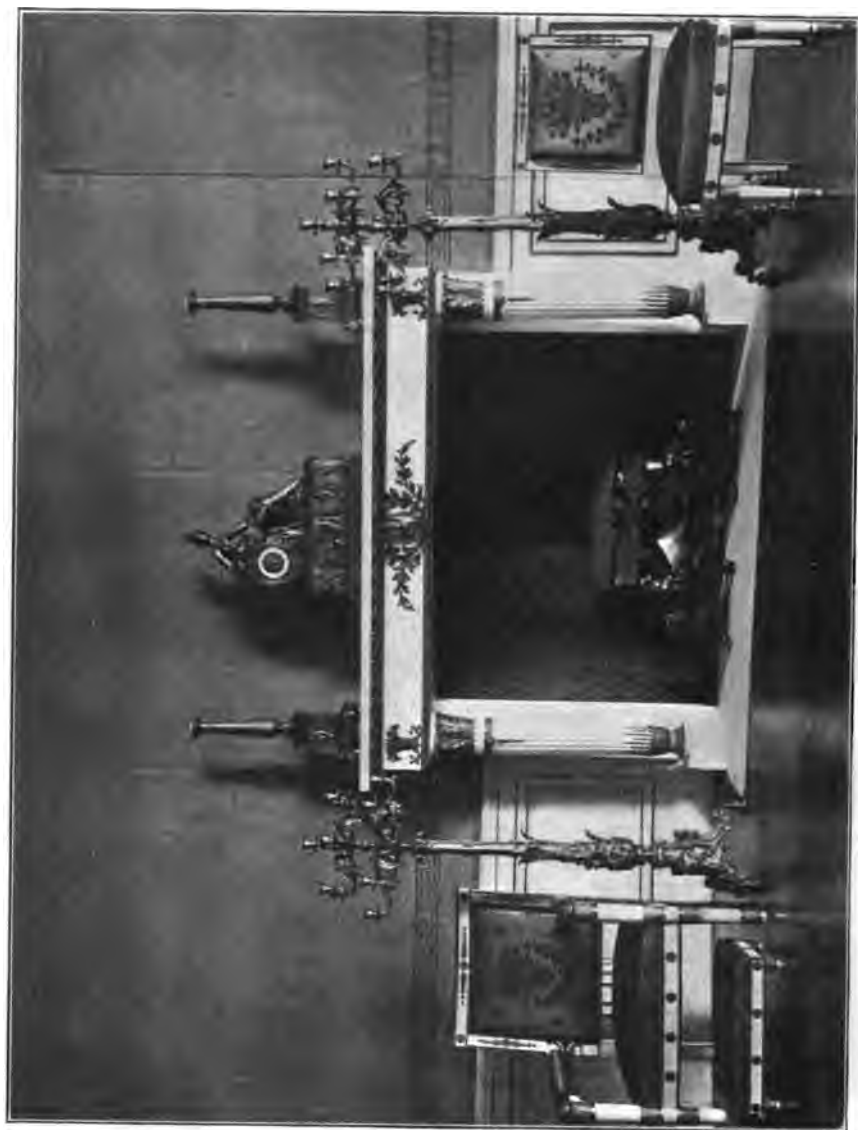
THE GREEN ROOM.



OLD MANTEL IN GREEN ROOM.



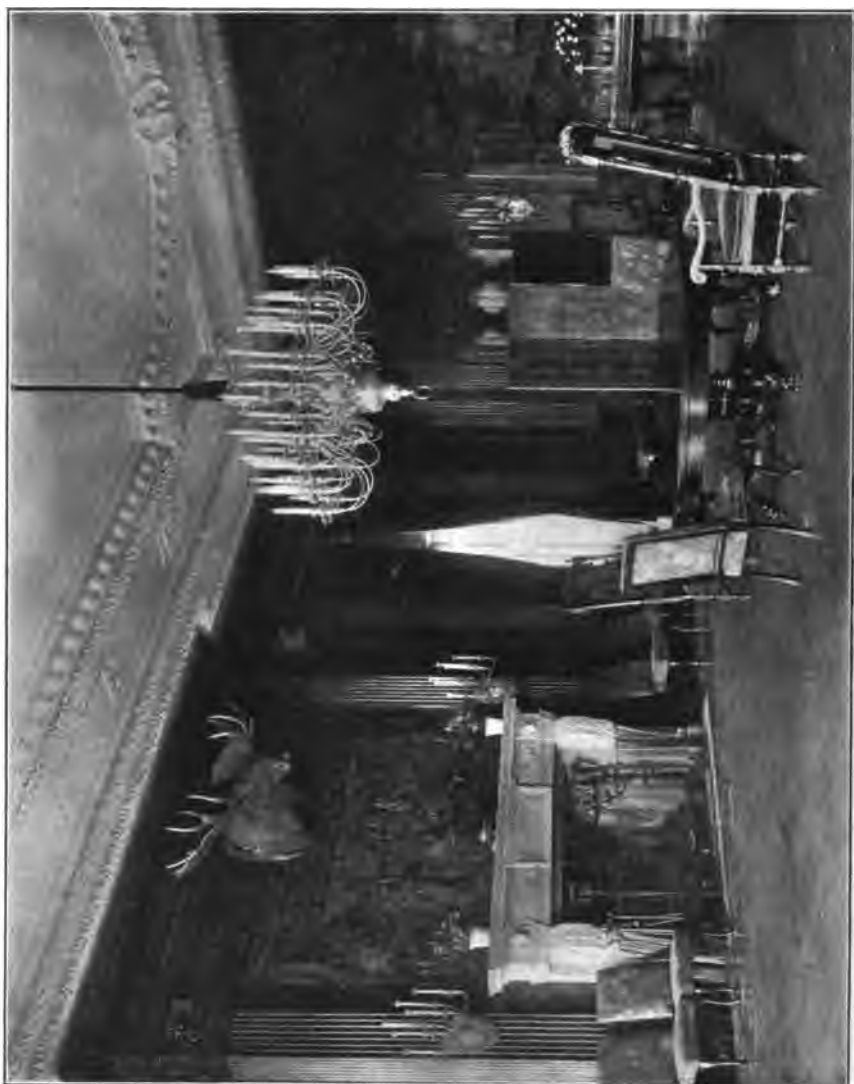
THE BLUE ROOM.



THE MANTEL IN THE BLUE ROOM.



THE STATE DINING ROOM.



THE STATE DINING ROOM.



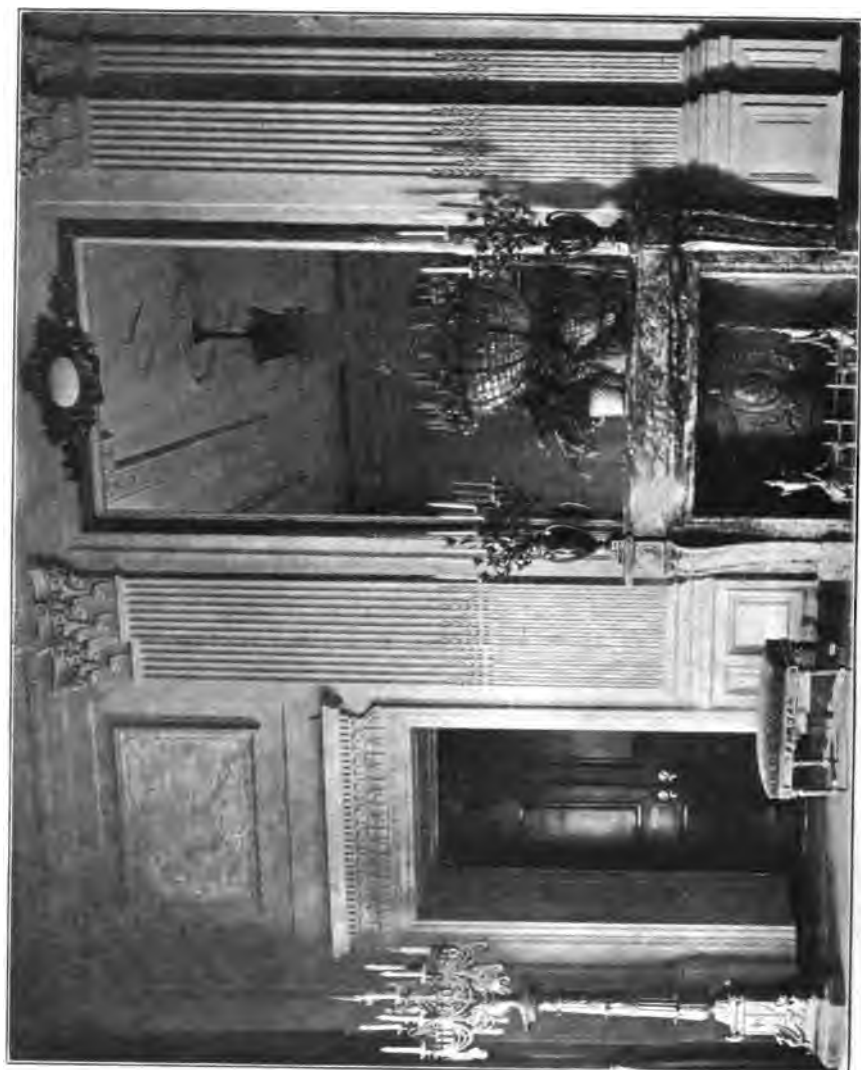
THE STATE DINING ROOM, DETAIL.



THE STATE DINING ROOM FIREPLACE.



THE EAST ROOM, MAIN ENTRANCE.



DETAIL, EAST ROOM.

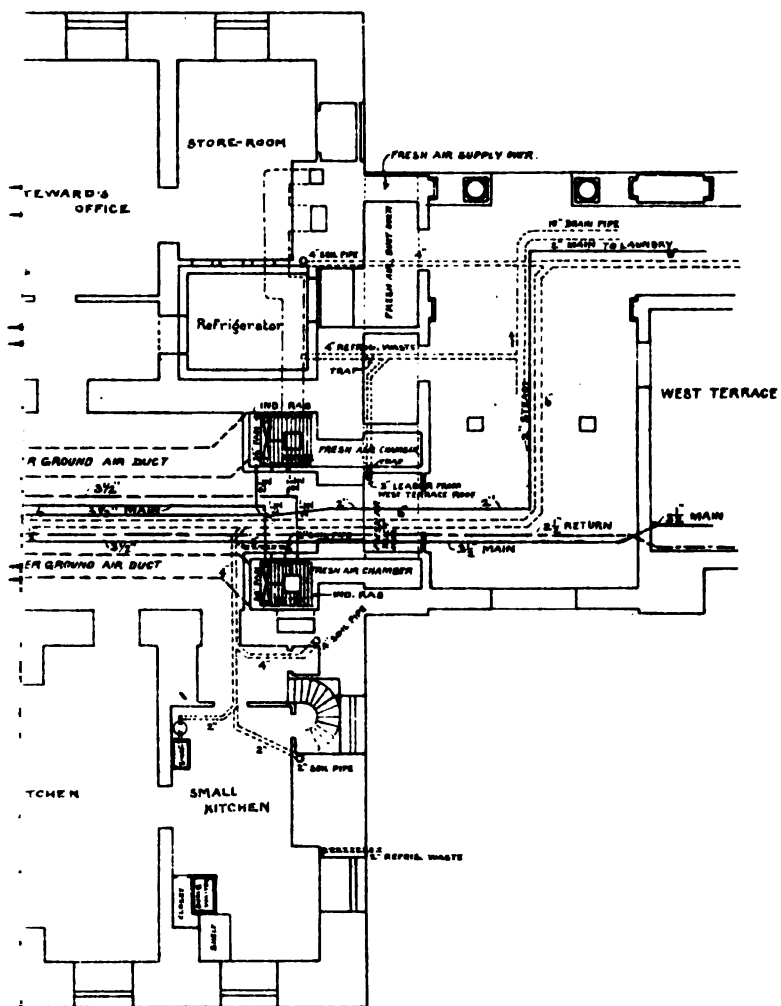


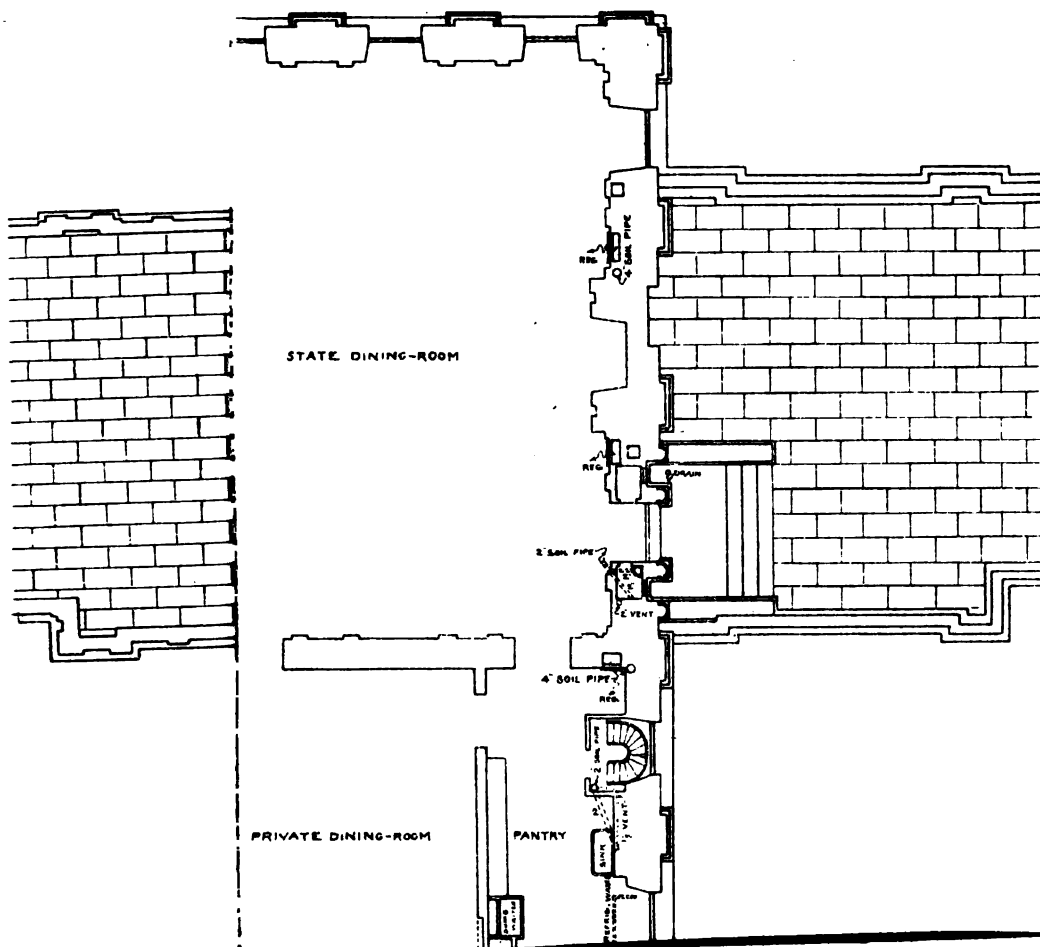
DETAIL, EAST ROOM.

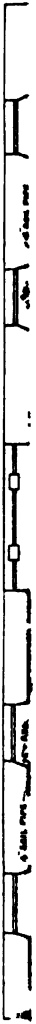


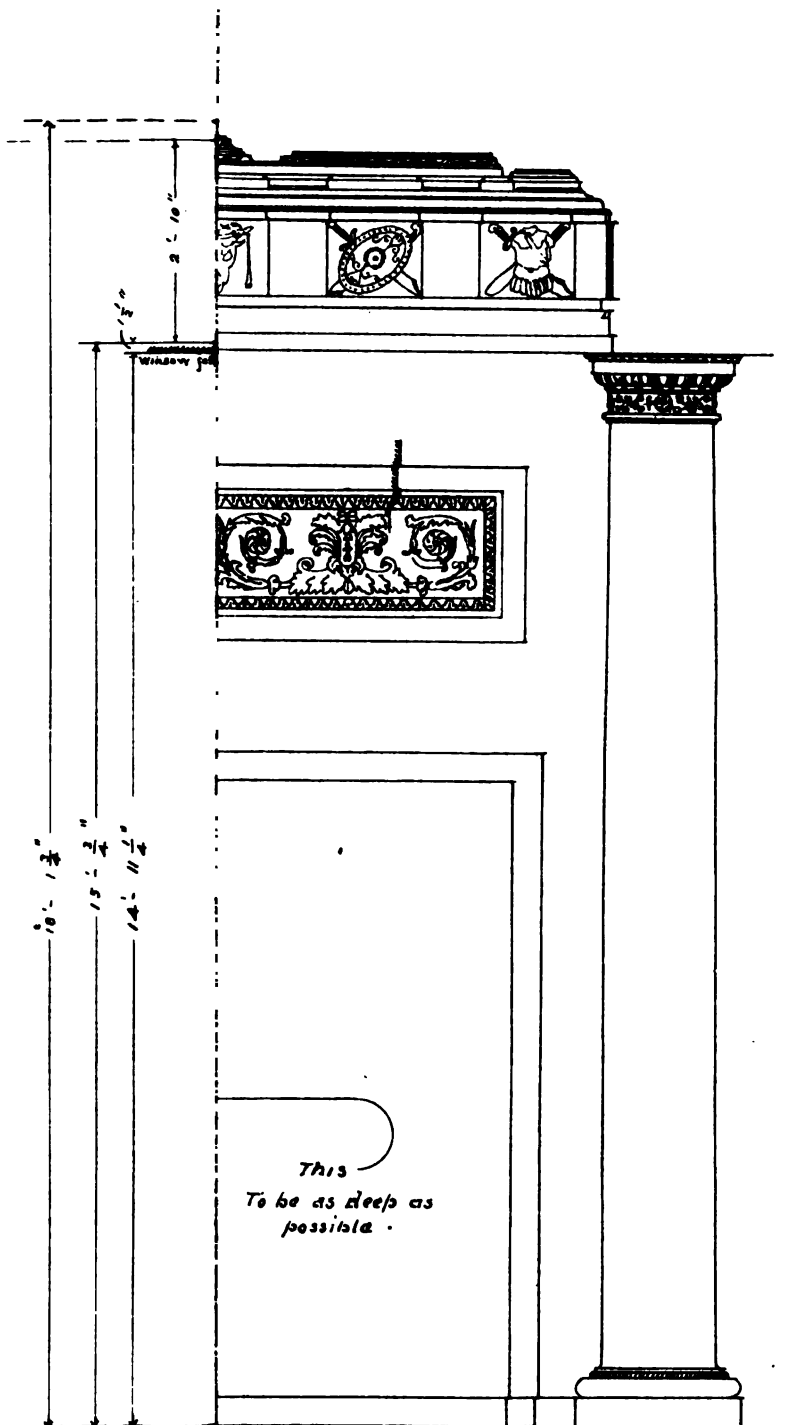
THE EAST ROOM.

**PLANS OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND TEMPORARY
EXECUTIVE OFFICES, RESTORATION OF 1902.**

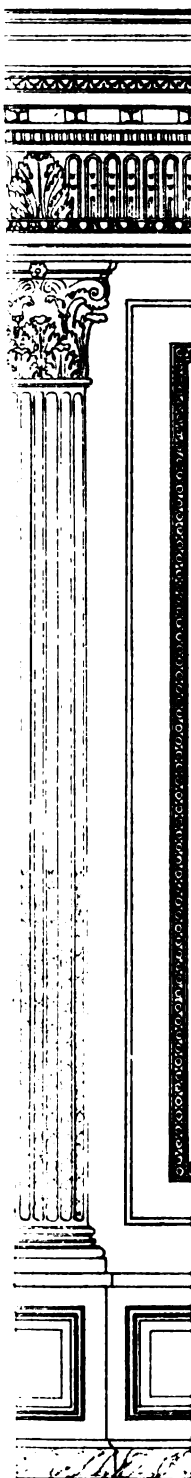












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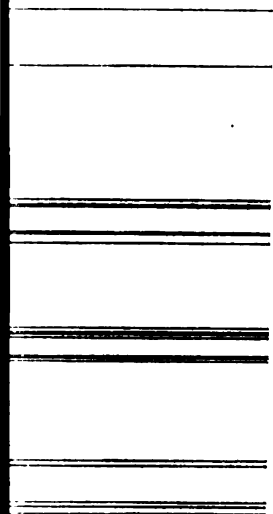
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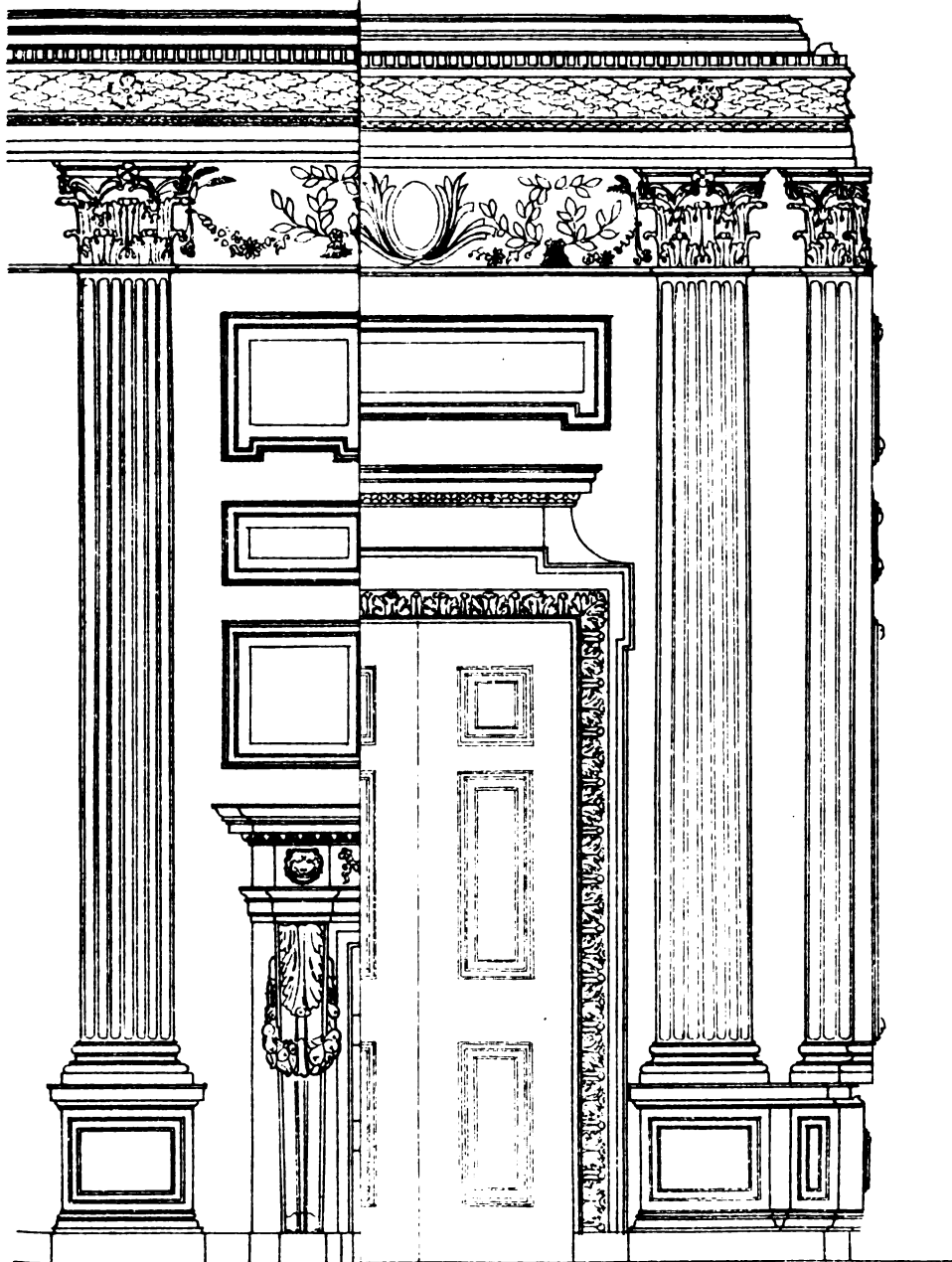
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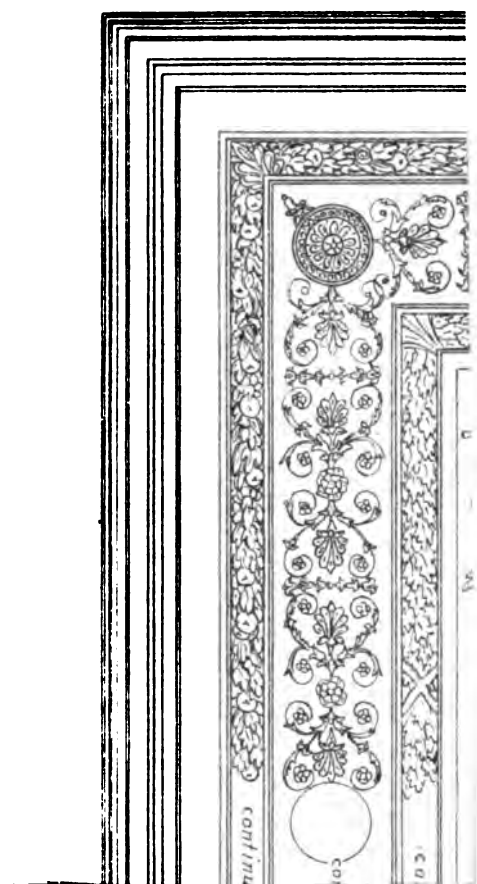
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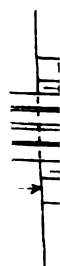
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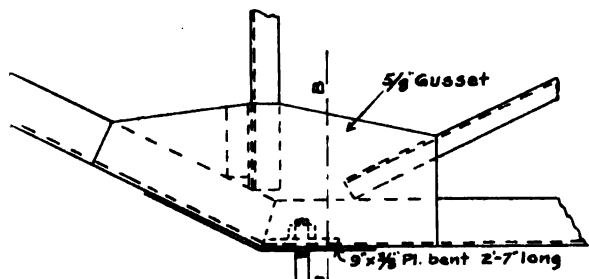
N
V
VA
S



12" x 3/8" Pl. 2'-0" long
3/4" anchor bolt 6" long

NOTE 5.

All material to be steel.
9000* per sq. in. for shearing value of rivets.
Rivets to be 3/4" diam.

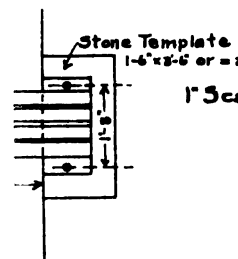


7" x 3/8" Pl. 8" long
riveted to angles.



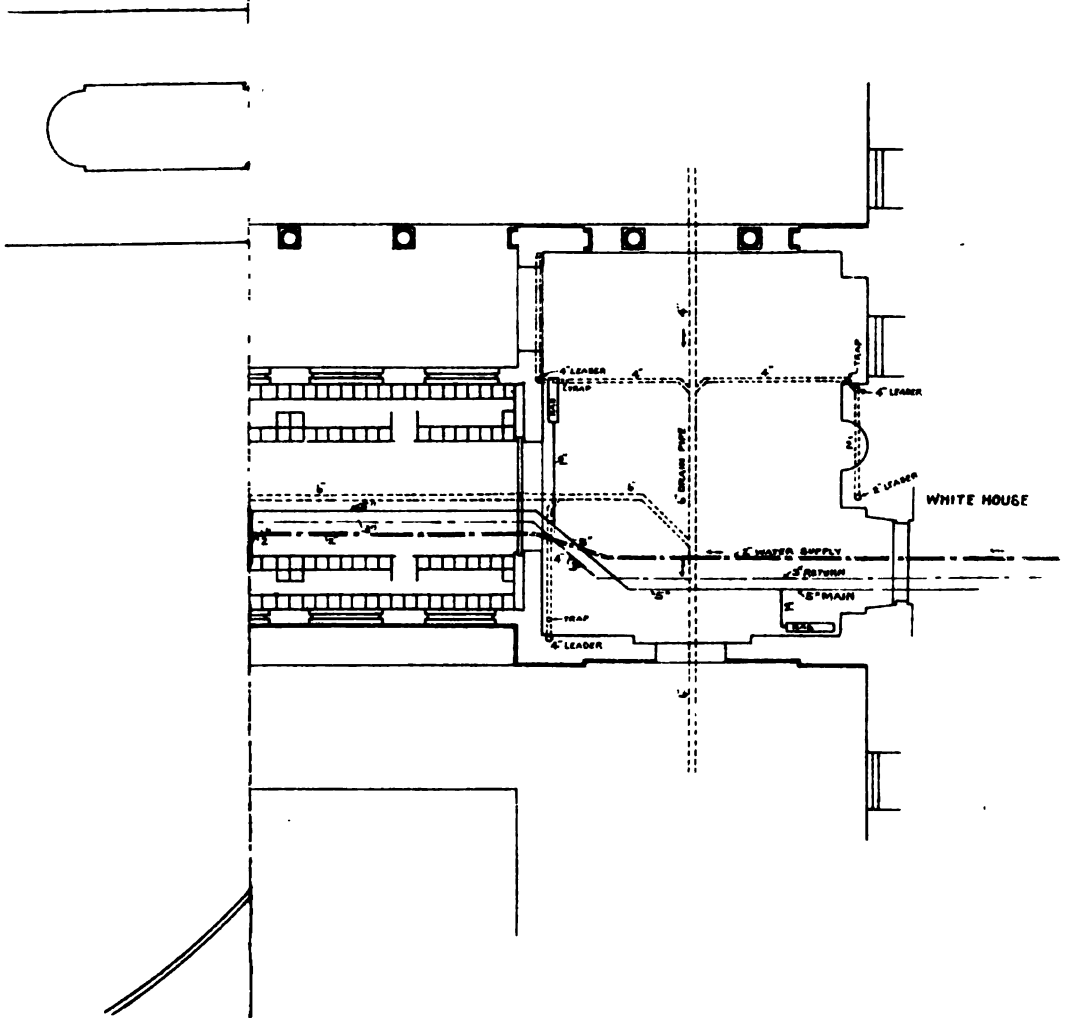
Section B.B.

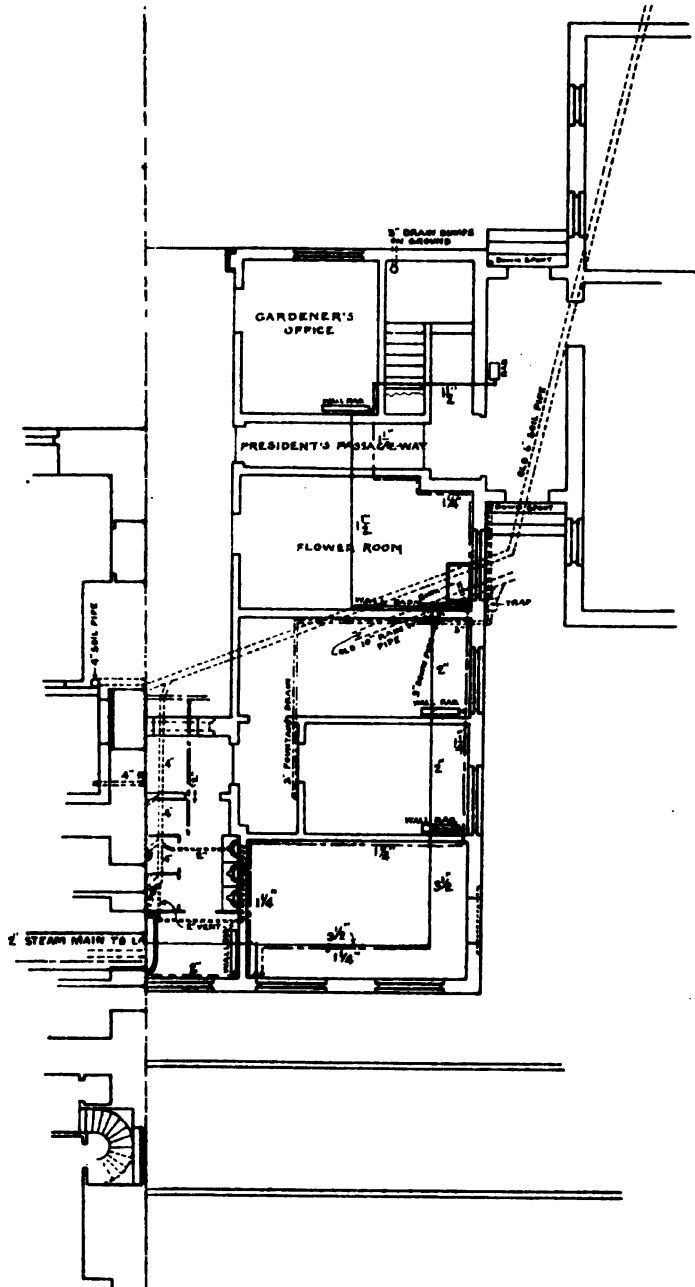
58

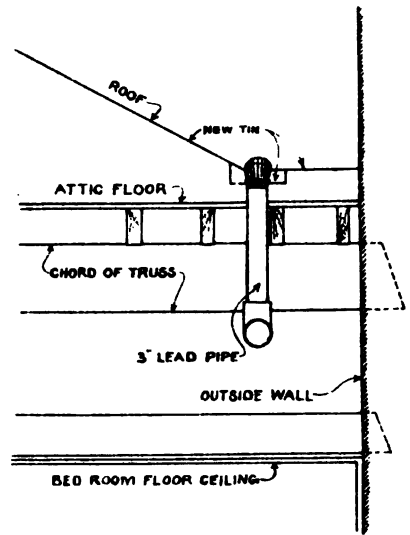
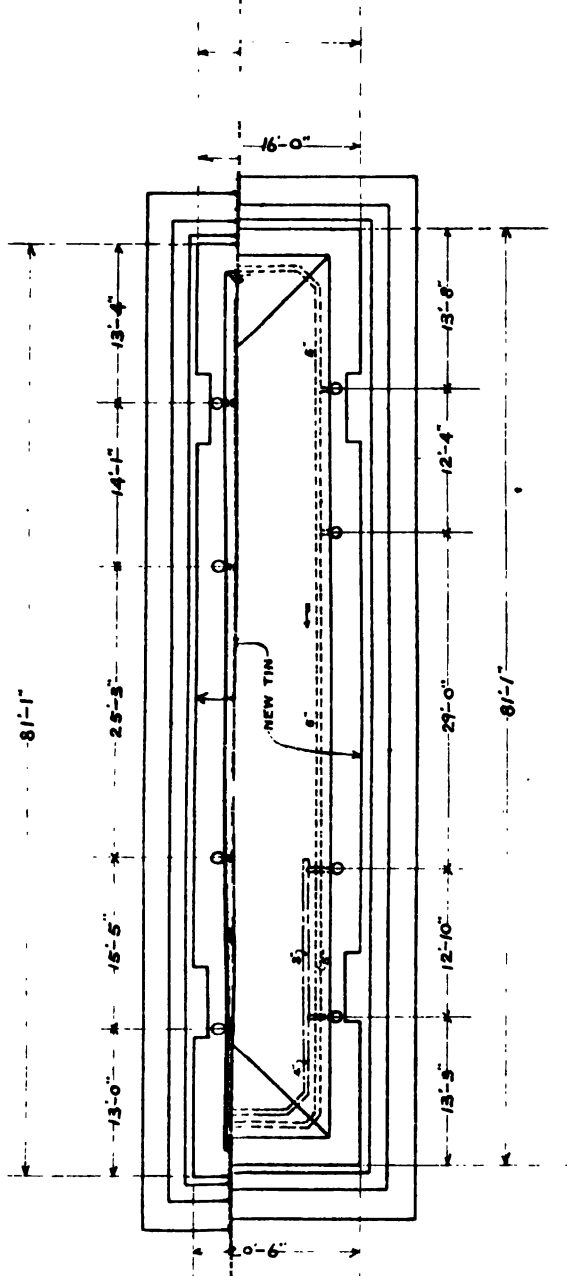


1' Scale Gusset Connection

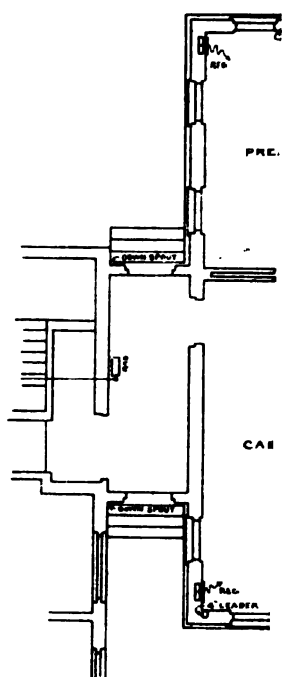
TRUSS
OVER STATE DINING ROOM
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D. C.
Scale 1/2" = 1'-0"







SECTION.



DATE DUE

FEB 10 2001

DEMCO 38-297

NA
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M212

McKim, Mead & White.

Restoration of the
White House. 1903.

1451

